

America Fallen!

The Sequel to the European War

By

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With an Introduction by

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INTRODUCTION

NEARLY half a century ago Sir George Chesney brought into print a bit of prophetic history entitled "The Battle of Dorking." There was even as far back as the late sixties increasing apprehension with certain groups of Englishmen in regard to the designs of their big neighbour across the North Sea. At that time Germany had practically no fleet, or at least no fleet which Englishmen needed to take into account. But military leaders like Sir George Chesney, who certainly could not be accused of hysterical imagination, pictured to themselves that it might be possible, nevertheless, to transport into England, during some temporary absence of the Channel Fleet, a scientifically organized army strong enough to overcome any forces which could be brought together from the small posts of Regulars and from the Militia. "The Battle of Dorking" is the work of a man who was a great staff officer and an accomplished student of military history. The author possessed also dramatic power and literary skill, and

which is an intelligent and effective development of the resources of the United States for national defence, and he is himself the Chairman of the League's Committee on the Navy.

"America Fallen" is a very cleverly presented bit of possible history, and the book makes an appeal for the realization on the part of American citizens of the risk of invasion, which is very similar to the appeal made in "The Battle of Dörking."

A volume was published in Berlin a few years before the present war under the title of "Operations on the Sea," by Freiherr von Edelsheim, at that time a colonel on the General Staff of the Prussian Army. The first portion of the book is devoted to a carefully studied scheme for the invasion of England, while the second part is devoted to the details of a plan for the capture of two or three of the more important coast cities of the United States. The Prussian colonel presents calculations, based upon the transport service available in the year in which he wrote, to show that Germany would have no difficulty in sending across the North Atlantic from the ports of the Elbe, the Weser, and the Ems, in weekly shipments, three successive armies of 250,000 men each.

He points out that, however strong the fortifications might be of Boston, of New

York, and of the mouth of the Potomac, a properly equipped force would have no difficulty in landing troops at some point on the coast from which the defences could be taken in the rear. There is, says Von Edelsheim, "no American army, and there would, of course, be nothing to prevent the occupation of these cities and the retention of them as long as might prove convenient."

He has the further impression that the Republic would be so cowed by the capture of its capital and of its chief Atlantic ports that resistance would crumble. Germany, after securing full indemnities from the millionaires of the eastern cities, would impose its own conditions and its own policy upon the United States.

It is, of course, certain that the Republic would decline to crumble simply because New York, Boston, and Washington had been occupied. Chicago, which feels itself perfectly capable of running the Republic without any aid from the Atlantic sea-coast, would have something to say about that, and so would Denver and San Francisco. There is, however, no reason why Americans should accept the risk of any such disastrous invasion. The Germans would, of course, sooner or later be expelled, but the cost of bringing about the expulsion would be heavy.

It is the contention of the Security League, whose membership since the sinking of the *Lusitania* has increased by leaps and bounds, that the expenditure for "national insurance" would be a small matter as compared with the waste of an invasion, even though such invasion might secure but temporary success. The Security League is demanding the development of the Navy on plans repeatedly submitted by the scientists of the Naval Board. It is demanding further the development of the Army, first by the addition to the present force of regulars, bringing it up to not less than 150,000 or 125,000 men; and, secondly, by the constitution of a strong reserve force of men who, having received training, would be available for call at need.

For this purpose the League emphasizes the necessity of a large increase in the force of officers competent to carry out the training of the citizens' soldiery. The League is opposed to the institution of a large standing army. It recommends the reduction from seven years to five years of the term of enlistment. It recommends, further, that service with the colours should be restricted to two years, and that at the end of two years the soldier shall be sent back to civil life, his name being retained

national defence The League holds that the nation should provide not one cent for aggression, but as many millions as may be necessary for defence The independence, the honour, and the prestige of the American Republic must be preserved, and its citizens must see to it that their country is maintained in a position to fulfil its obligations as a world Power

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

THIS book has been written entirely without prejudice. What Germany did could be done by more than one of the great naval and military Powers of Europe. That she has been chosen to point the moral of our unpreparedness is due to the fact that German unity of thought and action provide the strongest contrast to the lack of harmonious purpose and co-ordinated effort which characterize the United States.

J. B. W.

I

THE PEACE OF GENEVA

THE Treaty of Geneva, which brought to a close the European War, was signed, on March 1, 1916, by the peace plenipotentiaries of no less than thirteen nations

Throughout the spring, summer, and winter of 1915, the titanic conflict, enlarged by the entry of over 3,000,000 troops of Italy and the Balkan States into the theatre of operations, swayed to and fro across the blood-soaked soil of Europe, with a ferocity and slaughter which sickened even the most hardened veterans of the war. Weight of numbers and a crushing superiority in artillery drove the armies of the Dual Monarchy back upon Budapest and Vienna, held the redoubtable Von Hindenberg within his own frontiers, and rolled the German armies in France and Belgium slowly back to the Rhine and the Dutch frontier.

Undismayed, and fighting against heavy odds with a magnificent courage and steady-

ness, Germany took up a seemingly impregnable position on the right bank of the Rhine and marshalled her forces for a strictly defensive campaign in 1916. Late in November of 1915, however, when by common consent the warring hosts on the Western battle-line had apparently settled down for comparative rest and recuperation during the winter months in a quasi-defensive, similar to that of 1915, Holland suddenly declaring war, entrenched herself heavily on the German border, and a vast Allied reserve army, entering Holland by the Belgian-Dutch border, and by way of Rotterdam and Amsterdam, concentrated to the east of the Rhine, drove down in a resistless offensive into Westphalia, taking the German army in the right flank and rear, and captured the great centres of artillery and ammunition supply in Essen and the surrounding districts.

Germany, realizing that, with the Krupp and other factories in the hands of the enemy, the war must end automatically, accepted the friendly offices of the Swiss Government and the peace conference opened at Geneva.

And thus it came about that there gathered on the shores of the placid lake the most momentous conclave in all the history of the world.

Contrary to universal expectation the deliberations moved forward with a swiftness which, considering the enormous interests at stake, appeared to a nervously apprehensive world simply incredible. And herein was seen the advantage, costly though it had been in blood and treasure, of carrying the gigantic struggle through to an absolutely decisive issue.

The earlier deliberations, relative to the readjustment of boundaries and territory, moved rapidly to their expected results. Russia, content with the possession of Constantinople, and the extension of her frontier to the Carpathians, agreed readily to the re-creation of Poland as an autonomous and "buffer" state between herself and Germany. To Roumania was given Transylvania on the condition, arranged previously to her entrance into the war, that she return to Bulgaria the territory wrested from her during the second Balkan War, and Servia was enlarged by the acquisition of Herzegovina and Bosnia. The boundary between Italy and Austria was rectified so as to restore to Italy her lost provinces. France, as the reward of the heroic struggle of her citizen soldiery, regained possession of Alsace and Lorraine. Japan was permitted to hold Kiao-Chou and acquire from China the lease formerly held by

Germany, a pledge being given for the maintenance of the "Open Door" in that country.

So far, so good; but when it came to the insistence by the Allies on an indemnity of fifteen billion dollars, the first instalments of which were to be paid into the Belgian treasury, Germany presented an adamant front. And to the demands of Great Britain that the German fleet be reduced by the distribution of its major units among the fleets of the Allies, she retorted that if the transfer of so much as a ship's launch to a foreign flag were again suggested, Germany would withdraw at once from the convention, and "would fight it out until the last mark, the last loaf of bread, and the last man was gone!"

The convention was adjourned for a week; and in view of the uncompromising front presented by Germany and Great Britain, and the probability of a continuance of the war to the bitter end, the world was thrown into a state of profound despondency and foreboding.

The next session was marked by the most dramatic incident of the whole conference. No sooner had the meeting been declared open than the German plenipotentiary abruptly announced that he had received instructions from Berlin to state

that, if no more mention were made of the dismemberment of her fleet, Germany would agree to pay an indemnity to the Allies of fifteen billion dollars, and give the customary pledges therefor.

The curt announcement of Germany's assumption of this stupendous obligation produced, even in that well-poised assembly, a barely checked murmur of astonishment. The British plenipotentiary asked for a three days' adjournment. He was instructed by his home Government to stand firm for the disruption of the German navy; but on his cabling that it was the unanimous opinion of the rest of the Allies, that the assumption by Germany of this enormous indebtedness would so far cripple her financially as to render any material increase of her naval forces impossible before the existing ships were becoming obsolete, he was instructed to accept the German conditions.

And so, on March 1, 1916, the thirteen signatures which ended the greatest moral and material tragedy in the whole history of the world were appended and peace settled over the stricken people of Europe.

And, thereafter, men said to one another when they met: "How came it about that Germany so suddenly agreed to pay that fifteen-billion-dollar indemnity?"

II

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT POTSDAM

ON the morning of the day following the signing of the Peace of Geneva, Germany's plenipotentiary, Count Von Buelow, entered the Council Chamber at Potsdam punctually at the hour appointed. There was gloom upon his face—and weariness, too; for throughout the night journey to Berlin, the burden of that fifteen-billion-dollar indemnity, which the Kaiser had authorized him to impose upon stricken Germany, had lain heavily upon his mind. Heavy gloom sat also upon the faces of the distinguished company around the council board. Von Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor was there, and the Foreign Secretary, Von Jagow; Falkenhayn, also, the Chief of the Great General Staff, and next to him, Von Tirpitz, creator and controlling mind of the German Navy. Present also was the chief of the German Secret Service, and last, but not least, the Chief of the German Official Press Bureau.

Von Buelow had scarcely taken his seat when the murmur of desultory conversation suddenly ceased, and every man stiffened to the habitual pose of military and state decorum, as the Kaiser entered and strode to the head of the table.

Was he changed by the tragic happenings of the last twenty months? Yes, and no. The hair had whitened, and the stupendous burden of responsibility had bowed somewhat, as well it might, the shoulders upon which it had borne so heavily. But there was something in that flashing blue eye, in the set of the lips, and in the whole atmosphere of that ever-to-be-remembered face, which showed that he was still a Prussian of the Prussians, and that the indomitable spirit of the latest, if not the last of the Hohenzollerns, burned unquenched and unquenchable in the soul of the man.

Obeying the scarcely perceptible wave of his hand, the distinguished company seated themselves with their Kaiser for a council which, as subsequent events proved with lightning-like rapidity, was to be big with the fate, not this time of Europe, but of the great Western Hemisphere.

And thus he spoke :

"The Day has come and gone and Ger-

many has lost! What may have been and what yet may be the purposes of an inscrutable Providence neither you nor I can tell. This much I do know, that if the sword was thrust into our hands by the Almighty for our own chastisement, it is for us to bow our heads in submission. That God sent us into battle for our own permanent undoing, I do not believe. Our beloved Fatherland has set up before the eyes of the world a *kultur* too broad and beneficent, and the influence of that *kultur* upon the great world outside of Germany has been too profound and will prove too lasting, for God ever to contemplate the fall and passing away of the great German Empire. As surely as gold is purified by fire, so surely shall Germany emerge, freed of all dross and with more splendid potentialities for the future, out of this seven-times heated furnace of the war.

"I ask you to consider that Germany has passed through this supreme ordeal with her vitality unimpaired, and her military prestige enhanced. I will even say that *she is the stronger for her territorial losses*. Alsace and Lorraine have ever been a thorn in the side of Germany—the one impassable barrier to cordial relations with our great French neighbour, whose good will, as you well know, it has

been my earnest endeavour to win. And as for our lost colonial possessions, I, as well as you, have long recognized that they were too widely scattered, too little co-ordinated, to carry much military value; moreover, as outlets for our expanding population, they have failed of their purpose.

"Of the crime of Kiao-Chou I will say no more than that Germany never forgets!

"Has Germany, then, no future beyond the seas? She has, most assuredly, and it lies (would that we had recognized the fact, and recognizing, acted upon it long ago) in the Western Hemisphere, in the southern half of the great American continent. South America beckons the German colonist and calls to us for the further exploitation of its abundant natural resources by that combination of German science, capital, and organization, with which our competitors have found it impossible successfully to compete.

"But if, by purchase or by such means as the time and circumstance may demand, we are to found a colony or colonies in South America, it will be necessary to clear the air by disposing, once and for all, of that curious fiction which has come to be known as the 'Monroe Doctrine.' The peculiar claims set forth therein by the

United States have been described as 'the most magnificent bluff in all history and, so far, the most successful.' But you and I know, and it is known in all the chancelleries of Europe, that the bravado has been successful only by our sufferance, and because the great problems of Europe, for which the late war has been fought, called for more pressing solution.

"I have spoken of the 'Monroe Doctrine' as a fiction—perhaps I had better have described it as composed of many fictions, not the least among which has been the belief that back of this policy lay the strength of the British fleet. I know not with *certainly how much of truth there has* been in that assumption; but, thanks to the work of our plenipotentiary at Geneva, an understanding, secret and supplementary to the general treaty, was reached with the British representative, by which, in consideration of our withdrawal from the Euphrates Valley (which the collapse of the Turkish Empire has rendered less attractive to German enterprise than it was), Great Britain pledges herself to a neutral attitude on the 'Monroe Doctrine,' except so far as it affects her own North American possessions.

"With the fleet of Great Britain eliminated as an element in the problem, it

becomes possible for Germany, as I shall show you later, to achieve, through the instrumentality of her fleet, a feat of arms which, in a swift series of operations, shall restore our naval and military prestige in the eyes of the German people, demolish for all time the 'Monroe Doctrine,' and transfer from the shoulders of Germany to those of the United States of America the burden of the fifteen-billion-dollar indemnity, imposed upon us by the Treaty, to which, only yesterday, we appended our signature.

"I have said that the war has added to our military prestige—I will go further and say that, in the eyes of all the world, and particularly among those who follow the profession of arms, our military prestige has been immeasurably increased. We set out to fight the two greatest military Powers, next to ourselves; and alone we would have crushed them utterly. As the event has proved, Germany and Austria found themselves confronted by the embattled hosts of no less than ten nations. Nevertheless, we carried the war into the enemy's territory, and, so far as Germany is concerned, we presented an impregnable wall, which was finally pierced only by overwhelming numbers, and, thanks largely to our American friends, by a prepon-

derance of artillery against which even the indomitable soldiers of Germany could not prevail.

"It is only by the mass of the German people that these things are not well understood. We, of the ruling class, you will remember, told the people, brought up as they were to believe in the absolute invincibility of the German army, that within a month of the declaration of war we should be in Paris and within two months in St. Petersburg. Instead, they have seen that army arrested, held fast, and finally thrown back in defeat upon its own borders. The Socialists of Germany, working upon the minds of a defeated and discouraged people, are laying the blame for this disaster upon the shoulders of the very class which has made Germany what it is. We, it is, who have made the German Empire and given to it the only system of government which, bearing in mind the century-long training and peculiar temperament of its people, can maintain it intact amid the powerful and jealous nations of Europe, and carry it forward to the greater future that awaits it.

"The prestige of the army and navy and the confidence of the people in its ruling class can be restored only by some swift and brilliant feat of arms—and in view

of the rapidly augmenting strength of the Socialistic upheaval, that feat of arms cannot be performed too soon.

"The United States, as you are well aware, has recently reaffirmed the 'Monroe Doctrine' by definite Congressional action, forbidding the acquisition by any alien Power of harbours or coaling stations which are located within striking distance of the Panama Canal, and which might serve as a base for hostile operations in the Caribbean.

"That, gentlemen, is a clear and bold—I had almost said defiant—expression of one of the most important among the great foreign policies which the United States, since the period of the Spanish War, has adopted and proclaimed to the world in no unmeasured terms. In addition to the 'Monroe Doctrine' I have but to refer to their championship of the 'Open Door' in China, to the matter of the exclusion of the Asiatics, and to the construction and fortification of the Panama Canal; which great work and the Caribbean, as I foresee it, in the future naval wars of the New World, will be what Gibraltar and the Mediterranean were to the contending navies of the eighteenth century. The ultimate entry of the great republic of the Western Hemisphere into

the field of world politics was, of course, inevitable; but that this entrance would be marked by the adoption of a line of policies so bold as these, involving the possibility, nay the certainty, of conflict sooner or later with the great naval and military Powers of the world, I, for one, was not prepared to believe.

"Had there been in the United States that intimate and well-balanced relationship and co-operation between the diplomatic and the naval and military services which obtains in Germany, the growth of these ambitious policies would have been marked by a commensurate growth of the military and naval forces of the country. This co-operation, as you are well aware, has been conspicuously absent. The United States Congress, always fearful and jealous of what it is pleased to term 'militarism,' has failed to listen to the warnings of its military advisers; with the result, to-day, that it is endeavouring to support a line of first-class international policies with a third-class navy, and with military forces which are so insignificant that, in the eyes of a first-class military nation, they may be regarded as practically negligible. The burden of responsibility for these conditions lies not upon the naval and military advisers of

Congress, but upon Congress itself ; which, as our ambassadors have from time to time informed us, does not hesitate to play politics with matters which involve the very life and death of the nation-itself.

"Should the blow which Germany, in the hour of her dire need, is about to strike against the United States lead that great country to a realization of the necessity at all times for proper naval and military preparedness, the regret which I and Germany feel at having to break our friendly relations with a country with which we have always lived in perfect amity, will be tempered by the thought that, out of her temporary loss she will reap a future gain of inestimable benefit.

"It is noteworthy that our swift descent upon that great country could not be carried out with any reasonable hope of success, had the United States Congress but given heed to the words of its first soldier-president which were spoken, if my memory serves me well, in his first annual address. 'To be prepared for war,' said Washington, 'is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace. A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined ; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite.' "

The Kaiser ceased speaking and, turn-

ing to the Foreign Secretary, he said "Von Jagow, have you had the necessary conversations with the Danish Minister, and have you requested him to be present?"

"The conversations were eminently satisfactory, your Majesty. The Danish Minister is in the ante-room and awaits your commands."

"Send for him," said the Kaiser.

The Danish Minister entered, and he was no sooner seated than the Kaiser, without any preliminaries, abruptly asked, "What sum do you name as the purchase price of the island of St. Thomas in the West Indies?"

"Twenty-five million dollars, your Majesty," said the Minister.

"We will give you that sum for the island," said the Kaiser. "The only stipulation is that you shall pledge yourself to secrecy, leaving it to Germany to announce, at such time as may seem best, the transfer of the island. Here are the necessary papers, and if you will affix your signature the transfer can be consummated here and now."

The Danish Minister smiled, took the pen, signed the documents, and, after the customary felicitations, withdrew.

III

AN UNDEFENDED TREASURE LAND

"GENTLEMEN," said the Kaiser, as the door closed upon the retiring Danish Minister, "I have frequently said to you in this council chamber that the future of Germany lies upon the sea. To-day, in spite of the enforced inaction of our fleet during the war, I hold to that doctrine with unshaken conviction. Hence I did not hesitate, Von Buelow, to instruct you to offer fifteen billion dollars as the price of redeeming the fleet.

"If you ask me, as all Germany, doubtless, is asking itself at this very hour, how it will be possible for our stricken Fatherland to discharge this enormous obligation, I answer that not a single pfennig of this indemnity shall be raised by the taxation of my beloved people, or be paid out of their national treasury.

"Gentlemen, you may rest assured that when I authorized the acceptance of the indemnity, I had already determined on

a plan by which this stupendous sum could be realized without adding to the heavy obligations which the war had already imposed upon us."

Springing to his feet, the Kaiser swept his outstretched arm to the westward, and his voice took on that incisive staccato which indicates in him the deepest feeling: "On yonder side of the Atlantic lies an undefended treasure land, fifty billions of whose one hundred and fifty billions of wealth are to be found on the seaboard, and within easy reach of an expeditionary force and the guns of a hostile fleet. It is my purpose that the German Navy, on whose behalf I have assumed the indemnity, shall be made the instrument for securing the means of payment. It will appeal to your sense of the fitness of things that the United States, which has contributed so largely to our defeat, should pay the costs of this war and that the navy should play the part of collector.

"If it should be said that this descent upon the coasts of the United States is a premeditated attack upon a friendly Power, our reply will be, that, though the charge is technically true, ethically it is false. When that neutral country turned itself into an arsenal for the supply of guns, ammunition, and military stores and equip-

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ment to the enemies of Germany, it became in effect an active participant in our overthrow. You, Von Falkenhayn, will agree with me that the military supplies furnished to the Allies by the United States were of more value to them than several army corps. It was the preponderance of artillery, due in large measure to the purchases from America, that was the ultimate cause of our loss of the war.

"Although it was technically correct and in agreement with international law, the material assistance rendered by the United States was, I repeat, morally wrong; and in sending my fleet to exact from that country both the indemnity and the cost to Germany of the war, or twenty billion dollars in all, I feel that I am performing no more than an act of righteous retribution.

"The object of our expedition will be greatly facilitated by the fact that the Dreadnought fleet of the United States, consisting of ten ships, is now assembled off Vera Cruz—the Washington Government being still engaged in toying with the Mexican situation by following out its futile policy of 'Watchful waiting.' Equally favourable to our plans is the fact that the bulk of the effective regular force of 30,000 men in the Continental United States is gathered on the Mexican border.

cast loose its moorings and set sail for the Fatherland. Among the first of these ships to start out from her pier and head for the open sea was the great Hamburg-American liner *Vaterland*, and as she and the *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, of the North German Lloyd, followed at intervals by other ships of these two companies, steamed down the North River, and out through the Narrows, New York wished them God-speed on their homeward voyage with the flying of flags, the dipping of ensigns by the shipping, and the prolonged roar of a thousand steam whistles and sirens.

Meanwhile in Germany all public traffic over the railways was suspended and the huge task of returning some seven millions of men to their homes was begun.

Not all of the troops, however, were thus immediately redistributed to the farms and factories and business houses of Germany. A picked force of 200,000 veterans of the first line was diverted to the leading German seaports on the North Sea and the Baltic, and within a few days after the close of the war 20,000 of these troops, with the necessary artillery and equipment, had been embarked upon certain transports of moderate size and draft, which, as soon as the troops were aboard,

Embarkation of German Army 35

pulled out into midstream and awaited further orders. In every case the troops went aboard at night, and during the operation the cordon of secrecy, drawn around the various naval bases and ports at which the embarkation took place was tightened.

While the loaded transports were awaiting their orders, the troops remained below deck and only the regular working force of the ship was visible. One by one, and from widely separated harbours, these ships slipped their moorings and put to sea. Some by the way of the English Channel and others following the route around the north coast of Scotland and Ireland, they proceeded at slow speed to their appointed rendezvous in the western Atlantic.

Each ship sailed at sundown, and during the first night out the colour and banding of its funnels were changed to that of some foreign ship of similar size and contour, the corresponding foreign flag being flown. Those that took the southerly route regulated their speed so as to pass through the straits of Dover at night; those that laid their course around the north of Scotland maintained a good offing, beyond signalling distance of the coast-guard and signal stations. As soon as

of the picked veteran troops of the war, completely equipped with artillery, transport, and supplies.

And, thanks to the tightening of the censorship and the patriotic silence of the shipyard employees, not a whisper of what was going on escaped to the outside world, until on April 1, the third expeditionary force, convoyed by battleships, steamed boldly out into the North Sea and laid its course by way of the English Channel for the coasts of America.

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V

THE GERMAN FLEET SETS SAIL

ON March 15, there was published in the leading Berlin papers, and repeated throughout the world, the following official announcement: "The restoration of peace, the return of our valiant army, and the fact that our navy has emerged from the war with its strength unimpaired, will be celebrated by a grand review of the whole German fleet which will be held in the Bight of Heligoland, in the presence of the Kaiser. At the conclusion of the review, in order to afford the fleet an opportunity, on an extended scale, for those exercises on the high seas which have been denied to it because of the overwhelming strength of the enemy, it will set sail for a series of grand manœuvres.

"The operations will be based upon the theory that a powerful enemy's fleet is approaching the coast of Europe from the westward, for the purpose of finding, and,

if possible, destroying the German fleet. Early information of this movement having reached the Admiralty, our fleet has been dispatched to seek out and, if possible, destroy the enemy (which has been reported as somewhere in the mid-Atlantic), before he shall have reached European waters. Our forces will be about equally divided into the attacking, or Red fleet, and the defending, or Blue fleet. Immediately after the review, the Red fleet will steam to the westward, and when it has reached a designated position, will commence its approach. Thirty-six hours later the defending, or Blue fleet will be dispatched to meet the enemy."

- The morning of March 18 revealed, drawn up under the lee of Heligoland, the greatest naval force that had ever assembled under the German flag. Anchored in five long parallel lines, it covered many square miles of the calm waters of the Bight; and the ships, glistening in a new coat of paint, showed up, under the brilliant sun of that bright, spring morning, with all the picturesqueness and air of gaiety befitting a great national pageant.

The first line, six miles in length, was made up of Dreadnoughts and battle-cruisers, the second line of pre-Dreadnought battleships, the third of armoured

cruisers and light cruisers, the fourth of destroyers and sea-going submarines, and the fifth of the auxiliaries.

Promptly at the hour of twelve, the Kaiser, from the bridge of the *Hohenzollern*, opened the review, and as he made his way up and down those far-flung lines, ship after ship thundered forth its volleys in honour of the man to whom, despite the recent reverses of Germany, the hearts of his people turned with faith unshaken.

After the *Hohenzollern* had made the circuit of the fleet, she steamed a couple of miles to the westward, and anchored. Then the ships of the Red fleet, composed of the eight Dreadnoughts of the *Thuringen* and *Nassau* classes, the battle-cruisers, twelve light cruisers, and thirty sea-going destroyers, weighed anchor and saluted the Kaiser, as they steamed into the North Sea on their way to the English Channel.

When the flagship had passed the *Hohenzollern*, the admiral in command of the fleet opened his sealed orders, which read as follows: "As soon as it is clear of the English Channel, the Red fleet, avoiding the customary steamship routes, will proceed at slow speed to the Caribbean, reaching a position fifty miles to the south of the island of Hayti by April 5. Here

the Red fleet will await further orders, which will reach it in due course by wireless from the Commander-in-chief of the Blue fleet."

Thirty-six hours after the sailing of the Red fleet the Blue fleet set sail. It consisted of the nine Dreadnoughts of the *Koenig* and *Kaiser* classes, the armoured cruisers, twelve light cruisers of twenty-three to twenty-seven knots' speed, forty destroyers, and the whole of the thirty sea-going submarines. The sealed orders of the admiral read as follows: "After clearing the English Channel, the Blue fleet will proceed on a course midway between the frequented lines of steamship travel, until it reaches the thirty-fifth parallel. It will then proceed due west until it reaches a point of rendezvous 250 miles from the coast of the United States. Here it will meet a fleet of transports carrying 20,000 troops. At the point of rendezvous the six groups of submarines will replenish their fuel tanks, and proceed to the respective points of attack assigned to them at such speeds as to bring them off the various harbours at sundown on the night of March 31. During the night they will enter, assume favourable positions for attack and, where conditions allow, will go to sleep on the bottom until the dawn of April 1.

"The transports will proceed in scattered formation from the rendezvous to the various points of landing, steaming at such a speed that they will be off the coast and within two hours' steaming of the landing places at sundown on March 31.

"The battleship divisions will reach the entrance to the harbours of the cities which they are to lay under tribute at dawn on April 1. They will remain outside the extreme range of the coast fortifications' guns, and at a signal that our landing forces have possession of the forts, they will enter and take position for bombardment of the cities."

And so, on March 26, 1916, in the dark of a moonless night, the last ship of the greatest naval raid ever planned in the history of the world headed silently from the Bight of Heligoland for the North Sea and the coast of North America!

VI -

THE CABINET MEETING AT WASHINGTON

ON the morning of March 20 there appeared in the morning papers of the United States a dispatch from Berlin, stating that negotiations were believed to be under way between the Governments of Germany and Denmark, having in view the purchase by Germany of the Danish island of St. Thomas in the West Indies. "This movement," read the dispatch, "is the first step in a policy of the German Empire of acquiring, by purchase, certain coaling and refitting stations for the use of its great merchant marine, whose activities, released by the Peace of Geneva, are once more in full swing. Germany realizes and accepts the new conditions which have been brought about by the great war. For the future, the resources, energy, and skill of the German people will be directed less to naval and military achievements and more than ever to the upbuilding and enlarge-

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ment of her internal industries, the multiplication of the ships of her merchant marine, and the greater extension of her trade and commerce in all the countries of the world."

On the following morning there appeared in one of the leading New York dailies the following letter from Washington: "Had not yesterday's dispatch from Berlin, stating that negotiations were under way for the purchase by Germany of the Danish West Indian Island of St. Thomas, been given such unusually widespread publicity, the matter would not have attracted the serious attention which is being devoted to it in Washington. It is the general impression in well-informed circles in this city that the tone of the dispatch and its world-wide circulation bear the earmarks of the German Official Press Bureau. Were it not for this, its moderate and pacific tone would carry more conviction. Be that as it may, the least that can be done is to take the assurances of Germany's new point of view as to her destiny at their face value. The serious side of this matter for the Government of the United States, however, is not the question as to what will be Germany's future world policy, so much as the fact that the suggested purchase of St. Thomas, should it take place, would be a broad

violation of the principles of the 'Monroe Doctrine,' and a very direct challenge to the reaffirmation by Congress of that Doctrine, with particular respect to the waters and territory adjacent to the Panama Canal and therefore within easy striking distance of the same. It is stated in well-informed quarters that our Foreign Office has lost no time in directing its Ambassador in Berlin to make the necessary official inquiry and, if necessary, to follow it up with the strongest representations to the German Government."

On March 24 the representatives of the leading papers throughout the country were invited to meet the Secretary of State, who wished to make a communication on the subject of St. Thomas. They found him in the very best of humour, and he stated that he was pleased to tell them, that the slight cloud which had settled down upon the mutual relations of the United States and Germany had been completely dispelled by the announcement of the German Government, that no negotiations of any kind whatsoever were in progress for the purchase of the Danish West India Island of St. Thomas.

One week later the early editions of the evening papers of March 31 displayed in full-face headlines the news, that the Ger-

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man Government had announced that it had purchased St. Thomas and that it proposed to make of it one of the strongest naval bases in the world.

At the call of the President, a meeting of the Cabinet convened that night at the White House at 9 P.M. In view of the crisis, the members of the Cabinet arrived early, eager to ascertain from the Secretary of State the facts of the grave diplomatic situation. From him they learned, informally, that, having returned late that afternoon from lecturing in the West on "The Perils of Militarism," he was able to find time only for brief interviews with the German and the British Ambassadors. The German Ambassador had informed him that the dispatch published in the afternoon papers was essentially correct.

The President entered, seated himself, and at once asked the Secretary of State to give the latest information available from his department. "I have to inform you, sir, that the German Ambassador practically confirms the Berlin dispatch, and that in my opinion, the island of St. Thomas is at this hour the property of the German Government."

"In that case, gentlemen," said the President, "the situation is free from any ambiguity. By the purchase of St. Thomas

in the face of our recent protest, Germany challenges one of the most vital policies of the United States. The issues are clean-cut; either Germany must abrogate this sale, or we must abandon the 'Monroe Doctrine,' or the matter must be submitted to the test of war."

"I am for peace," said the Secretary of the Navy; "but I believe that our answer to this affront should be a sharp ultimatum offering to Germany the alternative of a return of St. Thomas to Denmark or—war! Germany will never dare to fight us over the 'Monroe Doctrine'; for she knows that back of that policy lies not only our own battle-fleet but that of Great Britain as well."

"Can the Secretary of State give us any definite assurance as to Great Britain's attitude?" asked the President.

"I had a conversation with the British Ambassador before coming to this meeting, relative to the attitude of Great Britain in the event of hostilities. He stated that he was advised by his government that the failure of the United States Government to make any protest against the violation of Belgian neutrality, or against the strewing of mines on the high seas, the bombardment of peaceful villages and undefended coast towns, and other violations of the humani-

tarian laws of war, had so far estranged the sympathies of the British nation that the most its government could pledge itself to, in the event of our becoming embroiled with Germany over the 'Monroe Doctrine,' was an attitude of strict neutrality."

Of all the men around that board the President alone seemed to realize the tremendous significance of this announcement. He bowed his head in deep thought, oblivious, for the time, to the discussion among the members as to whether Germany, exhausted as she must be by the terrific struggle of the past twenty months, would be willing and able to take up arms almost before she had laid them down.

Suddenly, and with powerful emphasis, the President said :

"Gentlemen, would it not be more sane and more consistent with the dignity of the Cabinet if, instead of indulging in speculation as to whether Germany would fight, we find out definitely whether we are in a position to do so ourselves." Turning to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, he said: "Send for the Chief of Staff of the Army and the President of the General Board of the Navy, and I will ask for their expert opinion as to our preparedness for a conflict with the greatest military and second greatest naval Power in the world."

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⁴²³⁶⁷
light cruisers also have been added, together with a considerable number of sea-going destroyers and submarines of the largest and latest type. So far as her main fleet is concerned, there can be no doubt that it is stronger and even better prepared for battle than it was at the commencement of the late war. With the menace of the British fleet removed, Germany is free to concentrate on our coast the whole strength of her navy. The General Board has reason to believe that Germany several years ago worked out a plan for the invasion of the United States, and it is believed also that, in the event of war, she would strike at once with all her available forces. It would be her object to overwhelm our fleet, obtain command of the sea, and land an expeditionary force, say, of 150,000 to 200,000 men, which, if our fleet were destroyed, she would be able to accomplish within ten or twelve days from the commencement of hostilities. The decisive action would have to be fought between the Dreadnought fleets of the two nations, and, if we gave battle, we should find ourselves opposed by a fighting line of double the strength of our own; for Germany can oppose twenty Dreadnoughts to our ten, and judging from such naval actions as were fought in the late war, in which both the gunnery and the

seamanship of the Germans were excellent, there can be little doubt that with such great odds against us, we should be defeated. Had the Congress in past years seen fit to listen to the warnings of the Board, and built up a fleet sufficient for the defence of the United States, we should have been prepared at this hour to match ship with ship and gun with gun.

"The seriousness of the situation is aggravated by the fact that all of the ships of our pre-Dreadnought classes in commission are now distributed in the various ports of the Pacific Coast, and therefore will not be available to meet that swift attack which the enemy would undoubtedly make immediately upon the declaration of war. This division of the fleet was opposed to the very first principles of naval strategy, and it was done against the strongest protest of this Board, backed by the judgment of every naval officer of the service. Mr President, I have answered your question, and I repeat, first, that the German navy is in a state of the highest preparedness and efficiency, secondly, that despite the excellence of our ships and the high quality of our officers and men, the relative weakness of our navy and the wide dispersion of its forces, to say nothing of the shortage of men and officers and lack of adequate

reserves, would render a successful issue to the war practically impossible."

The President of the General Board took his seat amid a profound silence.

He was followed by the Chief of Staff of the army, who said: "In answer to your first question, Mr. President, as to whether Germany, having emerged from a great war, would be ready to undertake another, I have this to say: that all history teaches us that a nation never fights more readily and valiantly than immediately after the close of a war in which it was involved. In proof of this I would call your attention of the fact that the North showed no signs of being exhausted by the Civil War in the sense of being unready for further military effort. On the contrary, it was the possession of a great army of well-trained and veteran soldiers, amply equipped and provided with all the munitions of war, that enabled her to assume an uncompromising attitude to France over the Mexican difficulty. So far from exhausting Russia, the unsuccessful war which that country waged against Japan redounded greatly to her benefit; so much so, that when the recent war opened, the morale of her army was higher than ever before, and in equipment, arms, and organization she proved to be one of the great surprises of

that conflict. Even the little kingdom of Serbia fought first Turkey, then Bulgaria, and finally, and with scarcely a spell of rest, she waged the most remarkable campaign of her history against a first-class military power.

"In the event of the probable defeat of our fleet due to scattered forces and the overwhelming strength of the enemy, Germany would at once commence the invasion of our territory. And the question which I have been called here to answer is : what would be our chances of successfully resisting such an invasion and driving the enemy back to the sea ?

"We have at the present hour, within the Continental United States, only about 30,000 men of the regular army, including mobile troops, cavalry, infantry, and field artillery ; and we have about 16,000 men manning the coast defences, which is about one-half the necessary number. In the militia of the United States, which totals 127,000 men and officers on paper, only 104,000 are actually mustered. Of these 104,000, only some 60,000 are ready for immediate service in the field ; so that our total forces in the United States consist of 16,000 men scattered in the coast defences throughout our Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coast fortifications, which would not be

available for service in the field ; 30,000 regulars and 60,000 militia. That is to say, our mobile troops capable of taking the field number only 90,000 men, and these, we must remember, are scattered from Maine to California and from Canada to the Gulf.

"In the event of invasion by Germany in great force, with a thoroughly equipped army provided with the full complement of field guns, howitzers, and other necessary equipment, the first contingent of which expeditionary force might readily amount to 150,000 veterans of the late war, where should we stand ? It would be an optimistic forecast for me to say that we could concentrate these 90,000 men at any point on the Atlantic Coast within thirty days of the declaration of war. And when the concentration had been made, the troops would be without properly trained artillery and cavalry organization, and without ammunition trains ; they would be hastily organized and assembled for the first time in large bodies ; they would be unprepared to act effectively as an army ; and should these troops be defeated, the country would have back of them practically no reserve of men and supplies. There is a shortage of men and guns in the regular field artillery ; we possess less than half the

was completing construction alongside wharf at C, and struck her with two torpedoes, one amidships and another on the bow. As we passed down the East River, we could see by the inclination of her masts that she was heeling rapidly to starboard. She is probably now on the bottom.

Our work being thus completed, we came to the surface, proceeded to the upper bay and joined the destroyer flotilla, as directed.

I wish to commend to your favourable attention the excellent work of my own crew and of the commanders and crews of U 41 and U 42, who carried out their instructions with great dash and precision and with complete success.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

R SCHLESINGER, LIEUTENANT, I G N

Report from Commander W Neumann of the Submarine U 30 to the Commander-in Chief of the German Fleet at New York

Flagship U 30, Limon Bay,
Panama Canal Zone,

April 1, 1916

Commander-in Chief, Imperial German
Expeditionary Fleet, New York

SIR,—I have the honour to report, that following your instructions, my flotilla,

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consisting of U 30, U 31, U 32, reached Limon Bay, Panama Canal Zone, at night-fall, March 31, convoyed by the light cruiser *Roslock*. At 3 A.M., April 1, proceeded at the surface, under electric motors, through the dredged entrance to the canal, laying our course by the canal range lights, which we found to be excellently placed. When off Cristobal, dropped U 32 for its attack on enemy submarine flotilla and proceeded cautiously. It had previously been arranged that U 30 should attack the easterly and U 31 the westerly gates. Sighted Gatun locks; and, as it was necessary to destroy both outer gate and inner guard gate, U 30 and U 31, each fired the four bow torpedoes in quick succession. To make sure of destroying the inner (guard) gates, we turned through 180 degrees so as to bring our stern tubes to bear, when each boat fired two more torpedoes.*

We then rose to the surface, coupled up engines, and drove ahead at eighteen knots. As I approached Cristobal, saw several columns of water rise from the docks, indicating that U 31 was attacking the

* The Panama Canal being wrecked and incapable of operation, the pre-Dreadnought fleet of the U.S. Navy was now separated by 14,000 miles of water from its main fleet.

enemy submarine flotilla of five boats. Passing the docks, I slowed down, and awaited U 32, which I presently saw returning full speed at the surface, having sunk the enemy as they lay moored at the dock. Rejoined light cruiser *Rostock*, whose commander informed me that, an hour before dawn, a landing party had surprised and captured the operating staff of the new long-distance radio plant at Colon, and after notifying Sayville Station in our cipher of the capture, had destroyed the electrical plant, and returned to the ship.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

W. NEUMANN, *LIEUTENANT, I.G.N.*

Report in cipher from long-distance naval radio station at Key West (captured), by way of Sayville Station (captured), to the Commander-in-Chief of the German Expeditionary Fleet at New York :

Light Cruiser *Graudenz*,
Key West,

April 1, 1916.

*Commander-in-Chief, Imperial German Fleet,
New York.*

Surprise attack by landing party on Key West successful. Long-distance radio-

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plant captured. Losses small, strong reinforcements from transport now being landed. Submarine attack followed capture of radio.

Shall send message in the U.S. Navy secret code, to the commander-in-chief of the United States North Atlantic Fleet at Vera Cruz to-morrow.*

LINK, CAPTAIN, I.G.N.

Wireless report, via Sayville (captured), to the Admiralty, German Imperial Navy, Berlin.

Imperial German Expeditionary Fleet,
New York,

8 A.M., April 1, 1916.

Admiralty, Berlin.

Favoured by calm weather, our submarine

* The message sent by Captain Link was as follows :
"Germany has declared war on the United States. Have information, German advance fleet is following southern course for Caribbean; second fleet on northern course for our Atlantic Coast. Proceed full speed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to take on coal and supplies. Find and destroy weaker advance German fleet. Send disabled ships to Hampton Roads, and proceed to Canal Zone, Panama. Under cover of guns of fortifications, await arrival of Third and Fourth Divisions of Atlantic Fleet from Pacific, and proceed north in full strength to engage second fleet of enemy."

attack, which took place in the dusk of early dawn, as planned, was everywhere successful. At Boston, New York, Norfolk, Charleston, Pensacola, and Cristobal, Panama, the surprise was so complete, that all enemy destroyers and submarines at those points were either sunk or completely disabled. The gates at the Atlantic end of the Gatun locks have been torpedoed, and the Panama Canal put out of commission.

Information as to success at Panama reached me from landing force at Colon, which after sending messages, destroyed long-distance radio station there. Another landing force captured long-distance radio at Key West and sent U S secret code message, directing U S Atlantic fleet proceed Vera Cruz to Guantanamo. Information regarding success at Boston, Norfolk, Charleston, and Pensacola was relayed to me by cruisers stationed along coast for that purpose. Sayville Station captured early this A M by motor-cycle corps from landing force at New York. My earlier report has given particulars of the successful landing and operations of expeditionary force at this city. The situation is developing very favourably.

During voyage of fleet across Atlantic, sighted only few ships, whose wireless was

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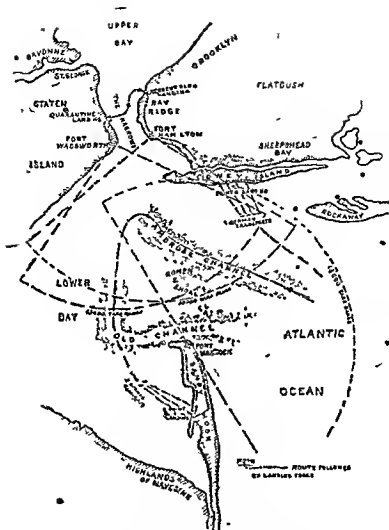
put out of commission by our destroyers
with promise of full reparation. .

BUCHNER,
Commander-in-Chief,
Imperial German Expeditionary Fleet.

Island and the various beach resorts. The linemen cut all the telegraph and telephone lines leading to Brooklyn and New York; the engineers removed a rail from every trolley and elevated track leading to the city. Part of this detachment covered the highways leading from the Beach and turned back all late-returning automobiles.

Meanwhile, under the cover of an impenetrable darkness, a force of 4000 men was quietly landed in the ships' boats, which, in strings of half a dozen, were towed by steam-launches to the beach and rowed ashore through the scarcely perceptible surf. The whole force had landed shortly after midnight. Drawn up in column of fours, it commenced a rapid march on Fort Hamilton, some six miles distant.

Realizing that there was a bare chance that no warning had reached its garrison of 600 men, the commander of the expedition hurried forward a bicycle detachment, 300 strong, for a surprise attack. The main body advanced by the road which skirts the shore of Gravesend Bay. When it was within three miles of the fort, the distant roll of musketry fire showed that the garrison had been warned and was offering a heavy resistance. Soon, dis-



ROUTES FOLLOWED BY EXPEDITION IN THE CAPTURE OF
NEW YORK'S DEFENCES.

patch riders from a bicycle force came back with the news that it had run into a strong skirmish line, which the garrison had thrown out across the Bath Beach road. The main body of troops was now divided, a force of 1000 being sent across the Fort Hamilton road with orders to advance from the north as soon as the main attack was pressed home from the south?

Despite the heroic resistance of the garrison, during which our regulars lived up to the finest traditions of the United States Army, the final rush of the German veterans could not be denied, and by 3 A.M. Fort Hamilton was in the hands of the enemy.

Leaving half of his force to hold the fort and entrench the position on the land side, the commander of the expedition, with 1800 men, marched north by the shore road in the direction of Bay Ridge.

Between two and three on the morning of April 1, a strange thing happened aboard the Staten Island ferry-boat as it was about to leave its landing at the Battery. No sooner had the last passenger for Manhattan stepped ashore than the gates were closed, and two men entered the pilot-house, covered the captain with their revolvers, and ordered him instantly

to pull out from the dock and head for Staten Island.

"What are you fellows after, anyway?" asked the captain. "Money?"

"Not at all. We are officers of the German Naval Reserve. War has been declared by Germany against the United States; Forts Hancock and Hamilton are already in our possession; and," with a smile, "by your kind permission we shall make use of your boat to transfer troops for the capture of Fort Wadsworth. You will be so good as to hand the wheel over to me and take that chair, making yourself as comfortable in mind and body as the exigencies of the present situation will allow."

Commander Schultz, I.G.N., took the wheel and headed the big ferry-boat for the Narrows. At the entrance he swung to port, and made for the dock of the Crescent Athletic Club, on the Brooklyn side. Not long thereafter was heard the tramp of marching men on the shore road, leading from Fort Hamilton, and in ten minutes' time the big ferry-boat had backed away from the pier with 1800 men aboard. The boat crossed the Narrows, and, the tide being at the flood, was enabled to push her nose up to the quarantine landing at Staten Island. But no sooner

was she made fast than the shore line flashed with the rifle fire of the Wadsworth garrison, which had thrown out scouting parties in all directions in anticipation of attack

The ferry boat backed quickly into mid-stream, while a flotilla of German destroyers searched the shore with a storm of projectiles from their rapid-fire and machine guns. Under cover of this the debarkation was effected. The German force, 1800 strong, deployed and moved on the fort. Its garrison, consisting of only 400 men, fought it out stubbornly from building to building, but against such odds the result was inevitable, and by 4 30 A M the last of the great defensive works of New York Harbour was captured.

And thus it came about that by day-break of April 1 the mighty sea-coast guns and the elaborate system of mortar batteries, which constitute the defences of New York, being utterly unprotected in the rear, fell into the hands of the enemy.

IX

INDEMNITY OR BOMBARDMENT

WITH the coming of the dawn of April 1, the mantle of clouds which had helped to obscure the fateful events of the night broke and scattered before a fresh wind out of the north-west. Over sea and land and city the sun shone brilliantly in that crystal-clear atmosphere, which is the sure accompaniment of a north-west breeze.

And as the sun came up, there lifted over the eastern horizon the van of a stately column of warships—the Dreadnought fleet of the Imperial German Navy. Into the Amhrose Channel they headed, led by the *Koenig*, flagship of Admiral Buchner, Commander-in-Chief of the German expeditionary fleet. Well off shore, the Admiral had waited through the night for the wireless message, telling him that the capture of the defences of New York had opened a safe passage for his fleet into the upper bay. The message came, as he knew it must, in due course ; and

immediately signal was made for the fleet to steam at full speed for the harbour entrance.

Following the flagship, in single column, were the Dreadnoughts of the *Koenig* and *Kaiser* classes, making, with the *Koenig*, nine in all ; a division of armoured cruisers, headed by the *Roon* ; and a division of light cruisers.

Thrown out fanwise in the van of the fleet and flanking it on each side in two parallel columns were the destroyer-flotillas.

When that stately line had swept through the Narrows, signal was made for half speed ; and after hugging the easterly side of the Channel, the flagship of each division of Dreadnoughts turned eight points to port and the fleet anchored. They lay bow and stern, in two parallel columns, 2000 yards apart, with the star-board batteries bearing on the city of New York.

Every ship was cleared for action ; and on each the battle-flags were flying.

Meanwhile on shore the engineer companies of the German troops in Forts Hancock, Hamilton, and Wadsworth, after selecting the points of vantage for defence of the landward approaches, had staked out the trenches, and the Germans were

feverishly digging and fortifying against attack. The 3-inch rapid-fire guns for protecting the mine-fields were unbolted from their concrete foundations, and remounted in selected positions on hastily-improvized platforms. Also, the 3-inch landing guns of the fleet were brought ashore in the ships' boats and wheeled into position. The garrisons were strengthened by a force of 2000 marines, landed from the fleet.

In short, within a few hours of occupation, the enemy had provided our coast fortifications with those organized defences, on the land side, which, had Congress given heed to the recommendations of its military advisers, would have long ago been completed and would have served to hold the enemy at bay until reinforcements could have been brought up in sufficient strength to drive him back to the sea.

Scarcely had the flagship of Admiral Buchner dropped her anchor, than a launch, flying a white flag, left the ship, steamed up the harbour, and landed at the battery. Captain Dornfeld of the Admiral's staff stepped ashore, strode through the park to a waiting automobile, and with a slight nod of recognition to the chauffeur, took his seat, and was driven swiftly

to the City Hall. It was early for an official call (9 A M), but the emissary guessed rightly that the Mayor would be in his office. His name and mission gained him instant audience.

Five minutes later a call went out from the Mayor's office, requesting the instant attendance of the heads of New York's great banking houses and financial institutions.

When that distinguished company had gathered, the Mayor said: "Gentlemen, it is my painful duty to announce to you—if indeed you are not aware of it already—that the fortifications protecting the approaches to New York are in the hands of a German expeditionary force, which, by a surprise attack (following a declaration of war by Germany, that reached the Secretary of State, at Washington, early this morning), has obtained full possession. A fleet of the enemy's Dreadnoughts, nine in number, has entered and is now covering the city with its guns.

"I hold in my hands an ultimatum from the Commander in Chief of the fleet, which I will read to you.

Imperial German Expeditionary Fleet,
Upper Bay, New York Harbour,

April 1, 1916.

To His Honour the Mayor of New York.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the German Government having declared war on the United States, a force was landed and, early this morning, captured all the fortifications covering the approaches to New York.

The fleet under my command, consisting of nine of the latest and most powerful Dreadnoughts of the German Imperial Navy, is now anchored in the upper bay. The heavy guns of the fleet, ninety in all, with an extreme range of fifteen miles, command practically the whole of Greater New York.

I am instructed by my Government to demand of you a ransom of five billion dollars, the bond for which, together with a first payment of five hundred million dollars in gold, must be delivered on board the flagship, twenty-four hours after the delivery of this ultimatum, that is to say, by 9 A.M. on April 2. Failing the receipt of this at or before the hour named I shall open fire on your city.

If, during the twenty-four hours covered

by the truce, any movement of troops, either of the regular army or of the National Guard, takes place, I shall immediately commence bombardment.

I have the honour to be,

BUCHNER,

Commander-in-Chief.

At the request of the Mayor, Captain Dornfeld, bearer of the ultimatum, withdrew to the ante-room.

The first to speak was the Comptroller, who said: "Obviously the thing to be done is to ascertain what are the facts of the military and naval situation. We should send a request to Governor's Island for the immediate attendance here of the Commander of the Department of the East."

"That I have already done," said the Mayor. "He was to return to-day from a tour of inspection, and my secretary has by this time, doubtless, met him. He should be with us in a few minutes. Meanwhile, gentlemen, what are you prepared to do in this emergency?"

"I am satisfied," said one of the Mayor's invited guests, who was famous alike as a pacifist and philanthropist, "that this whole thing is a colossal April fool's joke. It is so preposterous, in fact,

that it appeals to my Scotch sense of the humorous—or the canny—I scarce know which. Five bil—— Why, that is just five times as much as my late friend Bismarck demanded of the whole French nation, to liquidate the cost of the war of 1870.

“Five billions, and immediate payment in gold of five hundred millions! I cannot believe, gentlemen, that this outrageous descent upon the shores of a friendly nation is made with the consent of the great German people, or by command of my friend, the Kaiser. Why, I well remember that in the course of an intimate talk with him at Pots——”

But this interesting personal reminiscence was interrupted by the entrance of Major-General Adams, to whom the Mayor handed the ultimatum, without a word.

After he had read the fateful document the Mayor said: “General, we have asked you to come here to tell us what are the military and naval conditions, and what the city can do to escape this dilemma?”

“Mr. Mayor, the conditions are exactly as stated in this paper, and New York City can do—nothing! The country is confronted with a catastrophe for which the indifference and neglect of the people

and its Congress are entirely to blame. That the 'naval and military defences of the United States were totally inadequate has been known to naval and military men for a generation past. Year after year the General Staff and the General Board of the Navy have warned the nation that its unpreparedness was such that this very disaster, which has now fallen upon us like a thunderbolt, might come at any hour.

" Briefly, let me tell you the conditions .
* Your land defences are in the hands of the enemy, our battleships are at Vera Cruz, and the lesser units of the Navy, and particularly the destroyers and submarines, were sunk in our navy yards at daybreak.
* The German Fleet, freed from any menace from forts, submarines, destroyers, or our
* own battleship fleet, is in a position absolutely to destroy New York and take its own time to do it. Our few scattered regulars in the vicinity are concentrating and the National Guard is assembling at its armouries. They might in time recapture the forts—though even this is doubtful; for I learn that fresh transports are arriving every hour and the landing of reinforcements is proceeding. Moreover, according to this ultimatum, any further concentration of our troops will bring on the bombardment.

“Mr. Mayor, if you wish to save the city, whose total value, I believe, Mr. Comptroller, is twenty billion dollars, there is but one possible way to do it, and that is for you gentlemen to devise at once the ways and means for a cash payment in gold of five hundred million dollars and a guarantee of the balance of the five billion dollars demanded.”

The General left the room. With his departure the spirit of optimism began to prevail and ultimately a committee was appointed which decided to make a counter proposal of one billion, with a cash payment of fifty millions in gold. Meanwhile the Federal Government gave orders that no military demonstration should be made for the next twenty-four hours.

This proposal was handed to Captain Dornfeld, who promptly returned to the flagship.

The afternoon and evening wore away; but no answer came from the German Admiral. “He is communicating with Berlin,” said the committee; “we shall hear in the morning.”

And they did—from the throats of a hundred guns!

X

THE BOMBARDMENT OF NEW YORK

FROM his point of vantage, over 700 feet in mid-air, Kennedy, the attendant on the observation platform of the tower of the Woolworth Building, might have swept his eye over the grandest panoramic view of a great city that it has ever been granted to mortal eye to look upon. But on that particular day, April 2, and at that particular hour, 9 A.M., he gazed neither east, north, nor west. His face was to the south, and his eye riveted upon a group of dark-grey ships that stretched in two parallel lines across the main ship channel of the Upper Bay, somewhat to the north of Robbin's Reef—the German Dreadnoughts!

He had read in the papers of the night before about that absurd demand for five billion dollars, and from the papers, also, he knew that the city had made a counter-proposal of one billion. The morning extras had told him that no reply had come

from the German Admiral, "who, doubtless, was awaiting instructions from Berlin." He picked up a pair of field-glasses (an investment of his which had long ago paid for itself, and was now a steady source of income in tips from country visitors to the tower) and sought out the flagship. Yes, there she was at the head of the first line, with the Admiral's flag flying at the—but what was that flash, keen as the flash of a mirror in the sun! Could it be that—and there came a crash, louder than that of any thunderbolt from heaven, and he was clutching wildly at the railing, as the whole mass of the tower'shuddered, and then swayed for a few seconds like a reed shaken by the wind.

Driven by the instinct of flight, he rushed around the platform to the north side, and, looking down, saw that the buildings were obscured by a cloud of bricks, dust, and broken terra-cotta, which fell with a prolonged roar, like a fall of Cyclopean hail, upon the roofs and pavement far below. Another crash! Again the tower staggered under the blow!

He jumped for the elevator. Yes, it was intact. A few floors down it stopped. He managed to undo the door, crawled out, and ran down the stairway. Three flights below he stood dumbfounded. The

stairs ended in space, and through a gaping hole, where the hollow-tile flooring had been blasted entirely away, he saw that the whole of two stories, with their floors, outer walls, and inside partitions, had been blown clear into space, leaving the skeleton of the building—columns, floor beams, and braces—stripped as clean of its brick and terra cotta walls as it was when the erecting gang had swung it into place, a few years before.

The stairs were gone; the elevator shafts also. There was nothing for him but to return. If he could not go down, he would go up. Odd to relate, fear was giving place to curiosity. He heard the roar of the 12-inch shells, as they hurtled past the tower to fall upon the doomed city, and the observation platform would enable him to watch the stupendous spectacle of its destruction.

He gained the platform just in time to see two shells, in quick succession, pass through the top stories of the towering Equitable Life Building, and blast two gaping holes in the south wall.

The next mark was the beautiful tower that crowned the Municipal Building. The percussion fuses were functioning with deadly precision; nothing wrong with these German shells. Just one hit—and

the walls and columns of the tower had been tumbled in a confused mass upon the roof of the main building and into the street below, leaving the twisted steel skeleton stripped as bare as the trees in midwinter.

And now it dawned upon Kennedy that the Germans were shooting up the city upon a predetermined plan, picking out the principal buildings and putting a couple of shots into the upper stories of each. In rapid succession the Singer Tower, the City Investing Building, the Adams Express, and the new Western Union Buildings were struck; and always the gaping holes were blown out hundreds of feet in mid-air, where the ruin was visible to the surging mass of people that swarmed out, like bees from a hive, into the streets below.

And then the din of the alternating boom of guns and crash of bursting shells ceased as suddenly as it began. Kennedy turned his glasses on the fleet and saw a couple of hydro-aeroplanes lifted by cranes from the deck of an auxiliary ship and placed on the water. They rose as they advanced on the city, over which they flew at an altitude of 1500 feet. One of them swung off at the Battery and began to fly in a circular path. The other passed

on until it reached the Fifty ninth Street power station of the Subway, above which it began to describe a path of the figure eight Kennedy turned his glasses upon the fleet One of the guns in No 1 turret of the flagship was being slowly elevated until it pointed well into the sky There was a flash—a long, droning hum—and thirty seconds later he saw the shell burst against a building north of the power station From the hydro aeroplane above there was dropped a puff of white smoke Another flash and this time the shell burst somewhat to the south of the station There followed two more puffs of smoke from the 'plane A few minutes later every 12 inch gun on the ship rose to the range and flashed forth its 860 pound shell loaded with deadly explosive Kennedy heard the salvo go roaring by miles up in the air, and, lo! the walls of the great power station seemed to fall asunder and a huge cloud of smoke and dust rose high in the heavens

The power station was utterly wrecked, and every train in the Subway from the Bronx to Brooklyn stopped with its terror-stricken passengers in a darkness which could be felt!

Then the aviator sailed north east and began his fateful manœuvres above the

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Seventy-sixth Street power station of the Elevated Railways. The same routine followed: two or three ranging shots; the dropping of smoke signals, which were relayed by the 'plane at the Battery to the ship; and, finally, the salvo. In a few minutes every train on the Elevated was out of commission.

North the aviator now sped, until he was hovering like a remorseless fate above the Ninety-first Street power station, which runs the street-railway system of Manhattan. The relay hydro-aeroplane moved up to First Street. In ten minutes' time a salvo had found its mark, and Manhattan was absolutely bereft of all means of transportation. —

* * * *

That hive of busy workers known as "the down-town district" received its quota of the morning "rush" earlier than usual on April 2. The optimistic tone assumed by the New York Press was reflected among the citizens, who were satisfied that there would be at least a period of negotiations preceding any bombardment, the result of which, it was not doubted, would be a compromise. It was curiosity which filled up the business offices half an hour earlier than usual—and curiosity it was that carried the employees

by thousands to the roofs for a look at the Kaiser's Dreadnoughts

But when that first 12-inch shell flashed from the flagship, and went roaring overhead across the skies to burst in the Woolworth Tower, curiosity gave place to fear and fear to panic. From the roof to the floors below the fleeing crowd of clerks and stenographers ran, shouting that the Germans were bombarding the city. Every office floor disgorged its occupants, and a growing crowd rushed for the elevators and filled the stairways. Out of the entrance of every building there surged a human flood, and the waters of this inundation met and swirled in the side streets and turned in increasing volume to Broadway—seeking a means of quick escape by the Subway. In a few minutes the streets were filled from building line to building line with a frantic mob, so tightly jammed that all movement ceased. Then, as shell after shell burst far above, huge masses of masonry came hurtling down upon that hapless mob, killing and wounding the unfortunates where they stood, held fast. And still the terror-stricken pushed their way, with that fatal accumulation of pressure which marks a fleeing mob, out of every office-building entrance, the emerging mass acting with the cumula-

tive effect of a hydraulic ram upon the already compacted mass in the streets. Under that fatal pressure the weak went down, ribs were crushed in, breathing was no longer possible. By the hundred, the people died where they fell.

And up from the streets of the city there rose the prolonged wail of the dying, answered from above by the savage roar of the flying shells, and the swish and clatter of the ever-falling masonry.

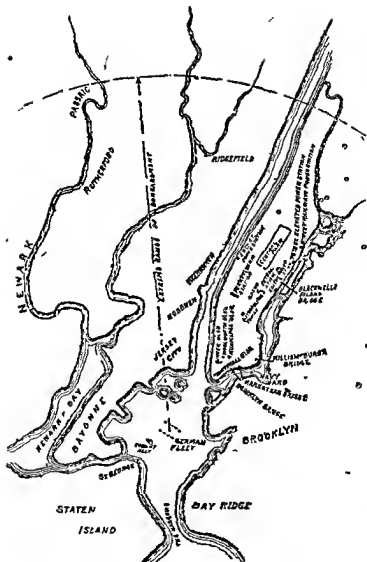
There was a slight relief at each Subway entrance, into which the waters of that stricken human flood twisted and gurgled like water through a sink. And further relief was given on the outskirts of the mob, where such of the police as had not been engulfed, attacking from the side streets, unloosened the fringe of the horror, by reminding the terror-stricken that the Elevated and the ferries afforded other avenues of escape.

And then, as the great power stations fell beneath the salvos of the bombardment, and every wheel in New York's vast system of transportation ceased to turn, fear redoubled and frantic horror began again to crush the life out of that hope-abandoned mob.

And just at this very hour, as though the

anguish were not complete, the lawless element in the city broke loose in every quarter in a wild orgie of pillage and arson. From many a resort of crime and infamy, the gun-man, the safe-cracker, and all the brood that hides from law and order streamed forth to gather in the spoil. The police, aye the whole ten thousand of them, swept off their feet by the wild terror of Manhattan's millions, were unable to co-operate for effective work. Crime had found its millennium. Into the jewellery stores, into the houses of the rich on Fifth Avenue and the West Side, a mob, armed and stopping at no crime of violence, broke its way, gathering into grip and handbag, or thrusting into pocket at each grasp, the ransom of a prince!

The terror of the bombardment swept through the densely populated tenement-house district like the rush of a prairie fire, and at once there arose in a babel of many tongues the universal cry, "To the bridges; to the bridges!" And to the bridges they swept, men, women, and children, Jew, Italian, Greek, and Russian, bearded rabbi and toddling child, in a wild stampede to put the river between themselves and the bursting shells. Eastward to the bridges they surged, half a million strong; the mob becoming



MAP SHOWING HOW GUNS OF GERMAN FLEET COVERED
THE WHOLE OF MANHATTAN.

denser as it converged on the various approaches.

Overwhelmed by that human flood, vehicular traffic stopped. Roadways and footways, subway tracks and trolley tracks, all were submerged. The Manhattan Bridge, among others, in spite of its width of 120 feet, was packed from rail to rail with the fleeing host, and when the crush was at its worst the inevitable happened. Somewhere a fugitive slipped, a foot passing between the railway ties of the tracks—someone stayed to help—more stumbled and fell. The crowd behind, infuriated by the delay, made a rush, throwing down others in the van. Soon, there was a mass of struggling, cursing humanity wedged tight from rail to rail. The crushing out of life that was happening on lower Broadway was being repeated 150 feet above the East River.

And just then there sailed above the bridge, high in air, a German hydro-aeroplane. The mob saw it and knew the meaning of the dread portent. "God in Heaven, they are going to shell the bridge!" And then the strange thing happened. The crowd stopped its convulsive struggle. Except for the down-trodden and dying, silence fell on that multitude, and, awestruck, they gazed skyward at the

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harbinger of death and waited for his messengers.

Then they came. A roar as of an express train on the Elevated, and with a blast of air that swept down upon the victims, a 12-inch shell passed over the centre of the span.

But before signalling to correct the range, the aviator planed down so as to obtain a closer view of the bridge. With amazement he saw that it was swarming from end to end with a helpless mass of humanity. The purpose of the bombardment was to damage—not destroy; and he realized that if the shells of the *Koenig* should cut the bridge cables, 50,000 souls would be hurled to their death in the river below!

Hastily he rose and signalled to the *Koenig* to cease fire.

XI

THE CAPITULATION OF NEW YORK

IN response to the call of the Mayor, the Committee representing the financial institutions of the City met in his office promptly at 9 A M on April 2. A member was proposing that a wireless message be dispatched to the German Admiral, requesting an early answer to the Committee's proposal of the day before, when the boom of a heavy explosion shook the building, and the Mayor, looking up through the south west window, quietly remarked, "Gentlemen, the answer has come!" The Committee turned and saw in the fair white northern face of the beautiful Woolworth Tower a yawning cavity—and, filling the air below, a mass of falling debris!

The crisis had come, swift and appalling, and with a steady nerve and a quick-thinking brain each man of that Committee set himself to meet it. There was

much to do, and it must be done quickly. First, as to that cash payment of half a billion in gold. Was there that much gold in the city? The question was quickly answered. In the sub-treasury was one hundred and twenty million dollars; in the banks and other depositories, four hundred and fifty million dollars, more or less. Yes, the cash payment could be made—that very day, if demanded. And, as for the other four-and-a-half billions—well, New York, even with that financial burden to carry, was better than a New York thrown down by bombardment and ravaged by a universal conflagration.

And so, while the cannon thundered and the fleeing citizens surged past the City Hall, seeking a way of escape by Subway, Elevated, or Bridge, those men seated in the private office of the Mayor worked out a plan for the salvation of the city.

At 10 A.M. a wireless message was sent to the fleet announcing the capitulation of the city and the start of the Mayor, the Comptroller, and Committee to confer with the Admiral on board the *Koenig*.

Guarded by a cordon of police, who with difficulty had fought their way to the City Hall, the Mayor and Committee were escorted to the foot of Spruce Street on the

East River, where they boarded the patrol boat of the Police Department and steamed out to the Upper Bay.

The roar of the bombardment had ceased, and save for a few shell holes in the taller buildings, there was nothing to indicate that, for one fell hour, Hell had vented its fury upon their noble city.

Arrived at the gangway of the *Koenig*, the Mayor and his Committee were received by the executive officer with every mark of distinction, and escorted to the Admiral's quarters.

He was tall, blond, blue-eyed, affable, and supremely ceremonious. Moreover, he spoke most excellent English.

"He was sensible," he said, "of the great honour conferred upon the German Navy, upon the flagship, and upon himself, by the presence on board of the Mayor of the great commercial metropolis of the Western Hemisphere, attended by so many representatives of its leading financial houses.

"He could have wished that this meeting had taken place under less distressing circumstances; but—well—war is war, and upon him, as one under authority, had fallen the unhappy duty of bringing their city to terms by force of arms."

Picking up a document from his table

he said: "The conditions on which I am instructed to cease all further naval attack on New York are as follows:

"I. The payment by the City of New York of an indemnity of five billion dollars.

"II. The payment of the first instalment to be made in the form of five hundred million dollars in gold, the same to be delivered within twenty-four hours of the signing of this agreement.

"III. The surrender of the Custom House, New York, and its occupation by German forces until the payment of the balance of the indemnity has been completed.

"IV. The surrender of the Chelsea steamship piers for the use of the German troopships.

"V. The surrender of all armouries in New York and Brooklyn for the use of the troops of the German Expeditionary Force.

"It is my wish, Mr. Mayor, that, for the present, at least, you continue to exercise full civil control of New York, under the rules of military occupation of my government."

After very brief conference the articles of capitulation were duly signed, and shortly thereafter the Police Department

launch cast off from the gangway of the *Koenig* and headed for Manhattan.

Silent and preoccupied, the group of men on her upper deck gazed wistfully upon the stately buildings of lower Manhattan, which lifted their shell-scarred summits far into the blue of that sunlit April day.

"Well," said one of the party, "such are the caprices of Fortune."

"Nay, sir," sharply retorted the Mayor; "say rather that such are the fruits of folly and criminal neglect!"

That afternoon, closed and heavily guarded motor vans began to make their way from the banks of New York City to a German transport at Pier No. 1, the Battery; and before noon of the day following five hundred million dollars, or about a thousand tons, in gold, had been put aboard, and the vessel, under heavy naval escort, had sailed for a German port.

XII

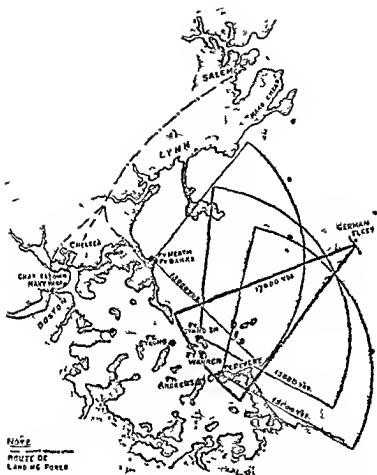
THE SURRENDER OF BOSTON.

THE combined sea and land expedition for the capture of Boston by a surprise attack consisted of a division of Dreadnoughts, some destroyers, a flotilla of six submarines, and a landing force of 5000 picked veterans of the European war.

The defences of Boston consisted of seven forts. Two of these, Fort Heath and Fort Banks, were built on the eastern shore of the peninsula which encloses Boston Harbour on the north. The others were advantageously placed on five of the islands which cover the approaches to the harbour. Three of these, Forts Standish, Warren, and Revere, formed the outer line of defence; the inner line consisted of Forts Strong and Andrews. They were heavily armed with 10- and 12-inch guns—the latter having an extreme range of 13,000 yards. There were also some 12-inch mortar batteries of approximately the same range.

Although the range exceeded the effective fighting range of any existing battle-ships at the time the forts were built, it was far short of the range of naval guns in the year 1916. Moreover, the Boston forts, like those defending New York, were open to attack from the rear. All of the guns and mortars pointed seaward. Furthermore, thanks to the parsimony of Congress, the whole of these defences were under-manned, there being only 1100 men distributed among the seven forts.

The expedition timed its approach so as to be within a few hours' steaming of the Massachusetts coast at sundown, March 31, where it divided, the four transports carrying 5000 men making for Salem, and the warships moving on Boston. The submarines, having filled their fuel tanks from the tender, pushed forward until they reached the outer defences, when they submerged and, under cover of the dark, worked their way carefully through the channels, reaching Boston Navy Yard in the early dawn. Here, at 4.30 A.M., they torpedoed and sunk every ship in the yard; sending to the bottom the armoured cruiser *Brooklyn*, the scout cruisers *Chester* and *Salem*, the cruiser *Chicago*, the gunboat *Castine*, and two or three smaller units. The submarines then submerged to the



MAP SHOWING HOW GERMANS BOMBARDED BOSTON FORT
FROM A POSITION OUTSIDE THE RANGE
OF THEIR GUNS.

bottom and went to sleep, awaiting developments.

The transports, favoured by an unusually dark night, there being no moon, reached Salem undetected. Debarkation commenced at 2 A.M. The first troops to be landed consisted of a bicycle corps, 1500 strong, which immediately made a dash for Boston, twelve miles distant. Five hundred of these followed the shore road, and at 4 A.M. rushed the garrison, 200 strong, of Forts Heath and Banks, which they took in reverse. The rest of the force, 1000 strong, entered Boston, one-half capturing the Navy Yard, while the other, crossing the Charles River, seized the large motor fishing boats and other motor craft at the docks and took them over to the Navy Yard.

Meanwhile the debarkation of the balance of the expeditionary force, 3500 strong, was being effected. The troops landed in light marching order, with two days' rations in their knapsacks, and accompanied by strong batteries of machine-guns. By daylight the column was on the march, and at 8 A.M., after a sharp engagement in the suburbs, and almost within sight of Bunker Hill, with such of the militia as it was possible hastily to assemble, the enemy moved into the Navy Yard

and began to embark on the miscellaneous craft which had been gathered there.

Meanwhile the German Dreadnoughts had moved in on the outer line of sea-coast defences. They anchored at a distance of 17,000 yards, or between 2000 and 3000 yards beyond the extreme range to which the guns of the forts could carry. Accompanying the fleet was an aeroplane tender, and by the time the ships were ready to open fire three aeroplanes were circling above the outer forts—Standish, Warren, and Revere.

The calm sea and clear weather which favoured the operations of April 1 along the Atlantic coast prevailed at Boston. Vision was exceptionally good, and the German gunners, being outside the range of the forts and quite unmolested, and being guided by aeroplane observation, quickly got on the target, and placed their high explosive 11-inch shells with deadly accuracy. After half an hour of bombardment a division of destroyers was sent in to draw the fire of the forts by steaming swiftly across their front at 10,000 yards' range. There was a vigorous reply from Forts Warren, Strong, and Andrews, but the fire from Forts Standish and Revere was feeble. The bombardment continued for another hour, the fire being directed chiefly at the inner forts.

It was now 9 A.M. and shortly thereafter one of the aeroplanes returned to report that the motor-boat fleet, carrying the land forces, had been descried moving down the bay to take the forts in reverse. The signal "cease fire" was made from the flagship, and the garrisons, already decimated and shaken up by shell fire, faced about to meet the new attack.

The motor-boat fleet moved upon the inner forts (Strong and Andrews) in two parallel columns, flanked on each wing by three submarines, which, moving awash, had broken out the 3-inch guns with which they were armed. Under the cover of these guns, which swept the landing with a storm of shells, the German troops were landed, and the garrison, consisting in each case of only four companies, after a spirited resistance, was forced to surrender. The expedition then moved on the three outer forts, and as there was only a single company in each, and half of these had been killed or wounded by the bombardment, they offered little or no resistance.

As soon as the Admiral saw the German flag flying over the forts, he moved into a position from which he could cover the whole of Boston with his guns. A launch, bearing a flag of truce, left the flagship,

and within half an hour the city was confronted with an ultimatum, demanding the payment of three billion dollars, two hundred millions of which was to be delivered aboard ship within twenty-four hours. The Custom House and the armouries were to be occupied immediately by German troops. The Mayor was to remain in civil control, under the rules of German military occupation. Finally, the ultimatum stated that if any movement of the regular or militia forces, having in view the recapture of Boston, took place, the fleet would open on the city with all its guns.

The Mayor called a meeting of the leading bankers and an effort was made to obtain a mitigation of the terms. The truce was to expire at 2 P.M., April 2; but on learning that the bombardment of New York had begun, the city at once capitulated.

That night one of the transports was sent round from Salem, and by noon of April 3 she had sailed for a German port with two hundred million dollars in her hold.

* * * *

On the afternoon of April 2 two German armoured cruisers and two light cruisers arrived at Boston from New York, and that evening the German Admiral,

pany to land was told off to cut all telegraph, telephone, and railway lines leading to Washington. A small detachment from this company, composed of fast riders—more than one of whom, in past years, had come over for the international races in Madison Square—pushed on at full speed for Washington, with instructions to mine the tall towers of the Arlington long-distance radio station, lay the wires, and be prepared to wreck the plant as soon as the expeditionary force reached the city.

Except for the machine-guns (each of which was carried between a pair of tandems) the whole force was in the lightest possible marching order, each man carrying only two days' rations and an extra supply of ammunition. As soon as the troops landed lamps were lit and they moved off silently into the night. By 2.30 A.M. the whole expedition was ashore. Just before daybreak the bulk of the raiding force, assembled on several roads leading into Washington, made its rush for the capture of the city.

Carefully planned though it was, the surprise was not complete. Willard Bronson, a correspondent recently returned from service at the front with the German army, had run out on his motor-cycle on the evening of March 31, to visit an old friend

The Capture of Washington 111

who lived some fifteen miles, or half-way from Washington, on the Annapolis road. There was much to tell; and it was between 2 and 3 A.M. when he left the house and brought his machine around from the stable. He was just about to light up, when he paused, match in hand, as the glare of a hundred lights shone down the road, and the van of the raiding force swept noiselessly by on the other side of the heavy privet hedge separating the lawn from the road.

"German mounted bicycle troops! Impossible; absurd!" But Bronson had been trained to clear thinking and quick action. There flashed into his mind the startling headlines of the afternoon papers, announcing the purchase of St. Thomas.

But this would be war before war was declared. True; yet there was the precedent of Japan's attack on Port Arthur.

Bronson slipped quietly back to the house and burst in upon his astonished host: "Quick, tell me, is there any road by which I can cut around into the main road—any path, cattle-track, anything on which a wheel can turn? Don't stare at me like that, man! Here, come to the window—see those lights sweeping by? It is the German army moving on Washington. I must warn them—the Government—or

they will make a bag of the whole Cabinet before dawn ! ”

“ Yes ; two fields away—good grassland—you can ride—there is a country road which intersects the main road two miles from here ; but you must ride like the very devil ! ”

With lamp alight he swept across the first field—good ; the gate was open. The gate to the road was shut—cruel delay, with the fate of a nation hanging on the chance of a minute !

Again he swung into the saddle, and, thank God, the searchlight beam of his lamp showed, straight and fair, a smooth, though grass-grown, lane. Wide went the throttle, and, ah ! how he would have liked to open the muffler too. Thirty, forty, fifty miles an hour. The road swung gently away to the left. Now it swung back again, and there, abreast of him, through the trees and across the fields, he could see the head of the raiding column. The lane and the road were convergent. And now he noticed that the leading lights were stringing out. He was discovered ; the purr of his motor and the gleam of his lamp had been noted, and they were sprinting to head him off. Open went his muffler, and, head down, he, the modern Paul Revere, swept into the main road, just one

The Capture of Washington 113

hundred yards ahead of the leading troops. With brake hard down and machine skidding over to the further ditch, fortune favoured his desperate dash, and he straightened out for Washington.

Behind, he heard the clash of falling bicycles. "Ah! they have jumped from their machines to take a long shot"—and above the roar of his motor he heard the crackle of rifle fire. Zip, zip, zip, the bullets sang. "I am going a good mile a minute now—they'll never get me—Oh, H——!" Like a blow from a baseball bat it struck him—right leg—in the calf. "Too bad—but I can see the lights of Washington—only a few minutes, and I shall be at the telephone exchange. God, how it stings!" He reached down and his hand felt the gush of the warm blood.

* * * *

The routine of work for the night force at the central telephone exchange at Washington, D.C., was suddenly broken at 3.30 A.M., April 1, when the door was laboriously opened and a man, on all fours, crawled into the room, dragging after him a broken leg that left a smear of blood on the floor. Propping himself on his hands, he raised his face, white and twitching, and shouted in a burst of staccato sentences: "The Germans are coming—landed at Annapolis

—here in half hour—warn members of Cabinet escape Union Station—tell garage send taxis each house—quick, quick, for the love of our country—the President first, then the——”

‘And with a groan he crumpled up and lay as though dead before the gaping night force

Then the spell broke—they rushed to the fallen man “Why, it’s Bronson, the war correspondent,” said Murphy, “and if Bronson says the Germans are coming, coming they are For God’s sake get busy”

And they did so to such good effect that, as the enemy swept into the city in the early dawn, there pulled out of the Union Station, for Philadelphia, an express train, bearing the members of the Cabinet and their families, together with the ranking official in the Departments of War, the Navy, and Finance

The seizure of the city was accomplished with characteristic precision and dispatch Every company and detachment had its objective The advance force, 1200 strong, with 20 machine guns, pushed on to the Aqueduct bridge, crossed the Potomac, and advanced on Fort Myer from the north

Another force of equal strength made

The Capture of Washington 115

for the Long Bridge, crossed, and approached the fort from the south-east.

Meanwhile the balance of the expedition as it reached the city took possession of the principal Government buildings. Five companies seized the Treasury; five companies the State, War and Navy building; three companies took possession of the Capitol; and a detachment seized the Armoury, capturing several machine-guns. Other detachments seized the banks, the Union Station, the Telephone Exchange, and the offices of the Postal Telegraph and Western Union. The balance of the troops, 1000 strong, moved on the Washington Barracks.

Among the warnings sent out when Bronson, the war correspondent, crawled into the Telephone Exchange, were two to the garrisons at Fort Myer and Washington Barracks.

At the former the force consisted of 400 cavalry and 400 field artillery with several batteries of field-guns. The garrison of Washington Barracks consisted of about 600 men. The commanders of each post decided to unite their forces on the left bank of the Potomac, and the Fort Myer garrison at once moved out, a cavalry screen being thrown forward to seize the Long Bridge. About a mile from the

bridge they ran into a strong skirmish line of the second German force, and fell back on their main body, which hastily entrenched itself, the field batteries moving to take up a position to the rear. While the batteries were taking position, and before all the guns were unlimbered, the first German force, which, finding Fort Myer evacuated, had pushed on with all speed, came up in the rear and opened a murderous machine-gun and rifle fire.

The cavalry wheeled and charged straight at the guns. Such was the impetus of their onrush, that those who survived that decimating fire, some 200 in all, broke through the first and second line before they were brought down. Those of the guns which could be brought into action swept the enemy with shrapnel at close range. Such an unequal contest could have but one issue. The gun detachments withered under the pitiless hail of German bullets, and when the enemy charged home, not a man was on his feet to dispute possession of the guns.

Leaving their own and the American wounded to be cared for by the stretcher-bearers of Fort Myer garrison, the Germans, now some 2000 strong, mounted and moved back to the city. Here, on learning from dispatch riders that the force sent to the

Washington Barracks was heavily engaged with the garrison in the neighbourhood of the steamboat wharves, they swung around to the south and took the enemy on the right flank and rear.

An hour later the Barracks and the Army War College were captured, and by noon of April 1, the small American forces having been annihilated or captured, Washington passed into the hands of the Germans.

At dawn of the same day, the German submarines, having passed in through the Capes by night, sank or destroyed every warship in the Norfolk yards, and at the yards of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company. Before the Germans had taken possession of Washington, the news was flashed from Philadelphia that a similar submarine raid had resulted in the sinking of the *South Carolina* and of the seven battleships in reserve and in ordinary, at the League Island Yard, namely, the *Alabama*, *Illinois*, *Kearsage*, *Kentucky*, *Missouri*, *Ohio* and *Wisconsin*.

At noon, April 1, the signal stations at Cape Charles and Cape Henry reported that a fleet of transports, flying the German flag, was converging on the entrance.

The rifle and mortar batteries at Fort

Monroe were instantly manned, and to the amazement of all but the few who knew the limitations of range, the fleet, in line ahead, steamed boldly for that forbidden ground, the main entrance to the Chesapeake, lying to the south of the middle shoal. As the fleet reached the entrance it slowed down, and using the lead, crept in, hugging closely the southerly edge of the shoal.

And then Fort Monroe spoke. From her batteries there roared forth a salvo, which, twenty seconds later, struck the water 13,000 yards away, sending up huge geysers of water. The projectiles, ricocheting in great sweeping arcs, finally died down into the water some thousands of yards beyond.

Then came the mortar-battery salvo. Lifting their stubby barrels to an angle of 45 degrees they shot their 12-inch shells skyward. Several miles they rose, and just one minute after the discharge four columns of water rose about 1000 yards from the ships.

"I knew it," said the captain of the leading troopship, an officer of the German naval reserve; "18,000 yards is the extreme range of those batteries, and a study of the chart convinced me that we could just squeeze through."

And next day, April 3, 5000 German

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infantry, together with the proper quota of engineer corps, field batteries, signal and medical corps, and the full equipment for a force of 10,000 men, were landed below Annapolis and moved on to Washington.

And on April 3 two events of the first magnitude occurred: the President of the United States announced that, acting on the advice of his military advisers, he had directed that the seat of Government be moved to Pittsburg; and to Pittsburg came a proposal from Germany to cease all military operations, upon the agreement by the United States to pay an indemnity of twelve billion dollars, an advance payment of one billion dollars in gold to be made on the day the indemnity bond was signed.

XIV

"SEEKING THE GERMAN FLEET

How it came about that I witnessed the greatest naval battle of all history from the fire-control platform of the flagship *Oklahoma* is readily explained. In the previous year I had offered for the consideration of the Navy Department a system of "director firing," which had been rejected on the ground that its mechanism was too delicate to stand the shock of battle.

The department was developing a system of its own which gave great promise of success; and, in recognition of my interest in the subject, I had been invited to witness the final tests of the installation during the spring target practice of the *Oklahoma*.

There are moments in one's life which stand out with sharp definition amid the crowded and more or less blurred memories of the past. Among these I shall ever reckon the breakfast hour, on the morning

of April 1, in the wardroom of the *Oklahoma*, flagship of the United States North Atlantic fleet, which was at anchor, on that particular day, off Vera Cruz.

The Mexican situation had reached one of its ever-recurring crises, with the result that the army had moved down to the Mexican border and the fleet to this Mexican port.

The conversation in the wardroom mess had been drifting along in a desultory way, when an orderly entered with a request for the presence of the executive officer in the Admiral's cabin. In a few minutes Commander Burnley returned, holding in his hand a wireless message. There was that in his face which caused a sudden hush.

"I have here a radio message from Washington by way of Key West," he said, "which I will read: 'Germany has declared war on the United States. Have information German advance fleet is following southern course for Caribbean; second fleet on northern course for our Atlantic coast. Proceed full speed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to take on coal and supplies. Find and destroy weaker advance German fleet. Send injured ships to Hampton Roads and proceed to Canal Zone, Panama.'

Under cover of guns of fortifications, await arrival of Third and Fourth Divisions of Atlantic fleet from Pacific, and proceed north in full strength to engage second fleet of enemy."

The tidings that war had been declared on the United States was flashed through the fleet, and a hurry call was sent ashore for the return of the landing force of seamen and marines. Ships that were coaling cast off their colliers, and before noon the fleet had sailed.

Shortly before midnight of April 5 the *Oklahoma* led the way into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The 6th was spent in coaling, taking aboard full supplies of stores and ammunition, and sending ashore the boats and all superfluous ship's furniture. On the 7th, shortly before dawn, the fleet, stripped for action, had sailed to the eastward, to "find and destroy the enemy."

Overnight, Admiral Willard, Commander-in-Chief of our fleet, had thrown out to the eastward a strong scouting force—such as it was—strong in numbers, but utterly inadequate for its purpose. It consisted of the three armoured cruisers *Washington*, *North Carolina*, and *Tennessee*, and four divisions of destroyers.

The cruisers were powerful ships carry-

ing four 10-inch and sixteen 6-inch guns, and they were capable of breaking through any screen of the German light cruisers of the *Karlsruhe* type; but they would be utterly at the mercy of the 28-knot battle-cruisers possessed by Germany, their best speed being only a little over 22 knots.

The destroyers, twenty in all, should never have been dispatched on such service. Their place was with the main fleet. Had the recommendations of the General Board, been followed, we would have possessed, on this disastrous day, a dozen 27-knot scouts, and our main fleet, the first line of defence of the United States against invasion, would not have been left exposed on both flanks to the destroyer attacks of the enemy.

By the courtesy of the executive officer I found myself on the forward fire-control platform of the *Oklahoma*. As we cleared the entrance to Guantanamo Bay and swung around to the eastward, from my station, 120 feet above the sea, I gazed with no little pride at the two divisions of Dreadnoughts strung out astern, ship beyond ship at 500-yard intervals, in a stately column which covered some three miles of water.

Below me was the flagship, fresh from the builders' hands. Seen from above, she

looked wonderfully like those deck-plan drawings which I had studied in the naval annuals. Forward was the new type of 3-gun turret, with its long, lean 14-inch guns looking for all the world like Brobdingnagian lead pencils. Aft of it was turret No. 2, with its pair of guns reaching clear across the roof of turret No. 1. Astern I looked down into the yawning mouth of our huge single funnel. Not so much as a wraith of tell-tale smoke drifted from its edge; merely the shimmer of heated gases—and I remembered that the boilers below were oil burners. Immediately aft the mainmast, another pair of those beauties—the 14-inch—showed from No. 3 turret, with their muzzles poised a few feet above turret No. 4, from which protruded three 14's. Truly a noble ship, her powers of offence, represented by ten 14's and twenty-two 5's, being matched by the massive armour, 13½ to 18 inches in thickness, the like of which was to be found in no other navy of the world.

Five hundred yards astern, with a white feather of foam curling from her shapely stem, was the *Nevada*, twin sister to the flagship. Astern of her, at the same interval, were the *New York* and *Texas*, carrying each a battery of ten 14's and twenty-one 5's.

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A wonderful piece, that 14—the pet and pride of the officers and men. Down at Indian Head, it had passed its proving tests triumphantly. Fifty-four feet long, 63 tons in weight, it had fired its 1400-pound shell with a velocity of 2600 feet a second and an energy of 65,000 foot-tons. At a distance of 10,000 yards, the projectiles were capable of passing clean through 16 inches of Krupp armour. Elevated to its limit of 15 degrees, the gun could place a shell on a ship twelve miles distant.

And there were forty of these guns that could speak at once, and twice a minute each, in the first four ships of our line.

Astern of the *Texas*, I saw those stately ships, the *Arkansas* and *Wyoming*, mounting, each, twelve 12-inch guns in its six turrets, with a battery of twenty-one 5-inch rapid-firers to repel torpedo attack.

Seventh and eighth in line were the twin sisters, *Utah* and *Florida*, each carrying ten 12-inch guns and sixteen 5-inch. Last in the line were the *Delaware* and *North Dakota*, our earliest Dreadnoughts, mounting ten 12's and fourteen 5's.

In displacement the ships varied from the 20,000 tons of the *Delaware* to the 27,500 tons of the *Oklahoma*. The belt armour was from 11 inches to 13½ inches

in thickness, and the maximum speed of the fleet was 21 knots.

Every ship could fire its whole broadside on either beam, and in every minute of the coming engagement we would be able to hurl at the enemy 110 tons of projectiles, every one of which, if it landed squarely, would pass entirely through the belt armour of the enemy and burst in the interior of the ship.

Ship for ship and gun for gun, we knew that we could crush that German fleet, which, the radio had told us, was approaching somewhere to the eastward.

But where was the enemy? In what strength was he? And, most important question of all, how did he shoot?

Before that sun, which I noted was just showing the golden edge of his rim above the horizon, had set, those questions had received their answer amid the fruitless heroism, the cataclysmic destruction, of the greatest sea fight in naval history.

XV

THE BATTLE OF THE CARIBBEAN

I REMEMBER it was while six bells were striking that there came the following radio call from one of our scouts, the armoured cruiser *Washington*: "Approaching St. Nicholas," it said, "fog lifted, disclosing screen of five battle-cruisers of the enemy, steaming abreast, distance 20,000 yards, covering a column of ten ships, apparently battleships. All are heading west. Am returning full speed, 22½ knots." At 7.15 A.M. came another message: "Enemy, in chase, has opened fire at 18,000 yards and is coming up fast." And then the story came in quick sequence. At 7.30: "Enemy at 15,000 yards is using forward 12- and 11-inch guns on all five ships. Am replying with two after 10-inch." At 7.40: "Received two shells, raking starboard battery." At 7.45: "Shell in boiler-room and two funnels gone. Speed 15 knots." At 7.55: "Steer-

ing gear gone—after turret disabled—
heavy casualties—am shot to pieces—going
down by stern, colours flying—sorry cannot
give details battleship fleet—our position
is lat ——— 1 ”

• A wireless call was sent for our des-
troyers to rejoin the fleet at full speed,
and the speed of the fleet was raised to
17 knots

And then we saw them—on the star-
board bow First the masts, with the
flutter of the battle flags discernible, then
the funnels, the turrets, the hulls, and,
yes! the five battle cruisers, which only a
brief hour before had sent the *Washington*
with her gallant company to the bottom

• And then, up over the horizon, sil-
houetted sharply against the eastern sky,
there came, a mile or more astern, the van
of the battleship line—one—two—three—
eight in all the German Dreadnoughts
And now the battle cruisers began to swing
around, at full speed, in a wide turn to
port, following in the wake of their flag-
ship, *Derfflinger*, until they had made a
turn of 16 points, and were heading to the
east Simultaneously, each ship of the
two battleship divisions swung round,
with helm hard over, until it had turned
16 points When the manœuvre was com-
pleted, the Germans were heading east in

two parallel columns, the battleship column abreast of us at a distance of 16,000 yards, and the battle-cruisers some 5000 yards off their starboard bow and 21,000 yards from our line.

In order to secure more of an offing from the Cuban coast, and obtain ample room for manœuvring, our Admiral signalled for every ship to turn four points to starboard; a manœuvre which was instantly followed by the Germans.

"Ha, ha," laughed an ensign, who, with his eye at the range-finder, was calling the distances into a telephone mouthpiece, "they don't want to come too close to our 14-inch guns; and as for the battle-cruisers, they are going to stay out of the scrap altogether; for at over 20,000 yards their 11's can never reach us."

"You are wrong there," said Lieutenant Carlisle, the spotter; "the German batteries can elevate to 30 degrees, which is just twice as much as we can. Their 11's have the advantage in range, carrying up to 26,000 yards, as a matter of fact. See that? They are trying a ranging shot at 21,000 yards."

And, sure enough, there was a flash from the forward turret of the *Derfflinger*, and thirty-five seconds later, with a deep moaning roar, a shell passed over our heads

and dropped into the sea, five hundred yards beyond the ship.

And now Admiral Willard, having obtained sufficient offing, brought his fleet back into column again, ready for the great trial of strength.

There was another flash from the *Derfflinger*, and half a minute later the shell struck 300 yards to starboard of the *Oklahoma*.

"Good shooting," said the ensign, "now for the salvo."

But it did not come—not yet. Instead, the leading ship of the German Dreadnought column tried for range. The shell struck 400 yards short. The next was 600 yards over. And then came the salvos.

From both ships there burst a flash of flame, from the battle-cruiser first and, a few seconds later, from the Dreadnought—and the *Oklahoma* was the target of each.

With a crash that seemed to rend the heavens, those twenty 12-inch shells "straddled" our ship, one making a square hit on our belt and the others striking the sea on either beam, and sending up vast columns of water that rose some 250 feet in the air, and fell like broken waterspouts upon our decks. We on the fire-control platform were drenched and

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found ourselves standing over our boot-tops in water.

But what of the *Oklahoma*? Had her guns been silent? Far from it.

As soon as the German columns straightened out after their turn to the eastward, Ensign Brown at the range-finder began to telephone the range to the fire-control station below decks. "Sixteen thousand five hundred yards; 16,200; 16,000; 15,500; 15,000." And looking over the rail, I noted that the centre gun in No. 1 turret was lifting its muzzle. Then came a snapping crash, a burst of flame, a drift of light-brown smoke, and the 1,400-pound shell was away on its flight. Twenty seconds later a beautiful snow-white column rose a little short of the German flagship and slightly astern. The "spotter," his eyes glued to his glasses, called into the mouthpiece of his telephone: "Up 300; left 6."

Down to the central station below the water-line went the message. The necessary corrections in the elevation of the gun were there figured out and telephoned to the sight-setter at the gun. Again a shell sped to the mark. This time the splash was beyond the ship and ahead. "Down 200; right 3," called the spotter. And now the necessary corrections, being

made on every gun in the ship's battery, the fire-control officer holding the cross-hairs of his telescope on the German flagship, pressed a button and all the 14-inch guns in our battery let go together, and the ten 1400-pound shells soared into the heavens, visible for a few seconds to the eye. There was a magnificent burst of water at the German flagship, and, as it fell away, through my glasses I could see that her after funnel was gone. The ragged outline of her deck, moreover, showed where the shells had burst inboard, lifting the deck, and apparently jamming the after turret.

And when the flagship had spoken, every ship down our line burst forth in flame and fury. The Germans fired with greater frequency and the storm of their shells, striking the water, raised such a mass of broken spray that, at times, I could see no farther than the second ship astern.

The American ships fired with greater deliberation, and, evidently, with greater accuracy. Moreover, against a combined broadside for the enemy Dreadnoughts of thirty-two 12's and thirty-two 11's, we opposed a total broadside of forty 14's and sixty-four 12's. The fire of the German battle-cruisers at 20,000

- yards was too inaccurate to be much more than annoying, although some deck hits were made.

After ten minutes of furious fighting, superior weight of metal began to tell. The flagship *Thüringen*, with one smoke stack gone and the after turret out of action, began to slow down; finally dropping to the rear, leaving the *Helgoland* to lead the line. Later, she picked up and took station at the rear of the German column. Then the *Oldenburg*, second in line, took a sudden shear, and began to circle, finally coming back on her own line and cutting in between the *Thüringen* (last in line) and the *Posen*. A 14-inch shell striking fair on the conning tower had wrecked it and jammed her steering wheel. Ultimately, she straightened out, 1500 yards astern of the column, which slowed down to cover her until she closed up.

The first ship to be put out of action was the *Nassau*, which succumbed to the concentrated salvos of the four leading ships of our line. Under the impact of their 14-inch shells, it looked through our glasses as though a whole section of her side armour was driven bodily into the ship. She dropped out of line mortally hurt, and, heeling rapidly, capsized and

works and some of the turrets had been disabled, the water line was intact on every ship. Victory was in sight, and we on the fire-control platform were jubilantly slapping each other on the back, when, happening to look landwards (we were now clearing Cape Maysi, the extreme easterly point of Cuba), I saw the leading ships of a column of warships moving past the point and bearing down diagonally upon our port bow.

I touched the spotter on the shoulder: "Carlisle, look at that; what is it?"

He swung his glasses upon the fleet (it was clear of the point by now) "That, my dear sir, is the other and stronger half of the German fleet, four *Koenigs* and the five *Kaisers*."

"Good Heavens! Then we are in for it."

"In for a licking, my dear boy, if they can do as good shooting as our friends over there," with a wave of the hand to the starboard.

"But the radio from Key West told us that this fleet was a thousand miles north from here."

Carlisle was silent for a moment. "Did you not think it strange that we should have been able to communicate only with

Key West radio station—not a word from Colon or Arlington?”

“Yes, I had thought of that.”

“Well, that second fleet coming out from under the lee of Cuba has made everything as clear as day to me. The Germans have raided our coasts (why—we may never live to know), seized Key West, and, using our secret code (which their confounded Intelligence Service has undoubtedly got hold of), have led us, in their own good time, and with true German precision, into this trap. Just look at that! They are going to tee us.”

And there we saw the four battle-cruisers, going 28 knots, forge ahead of the German column, and draw in, diagonally, across our path.

By the time the second fleet of the enemy had closed in to 12,000 yards and opened fire, the cruiser division was zig-zagging across our course, 10,000 yards ahead, and delivering a raking fire right down our line, first letting fly to starboard, then to port.

A hurricane of fire and steel smote the head of the American line. By preconcerted plan, every ship of the enemy, from starboard, from port, and from dead ahead, concentrated on the *Oklahoma*. Never had such a fury of shells stormed upon ship

or fortress as found and searched out the American flagship. In those brief minutes before she sank, all semblance of a ship had gone out of her. The roar of bursting shells was continuous. From side to side and from end to end they tore through her quivering frame and laughed at her dying agony.

And I am told that what happened to her happened at the head of the surviving line, until the last ship had gone—the column melting away before that concentrated fire like a bar of sealing-wax before a blowpipe.

I remember, as the noble ship keeled swiftly over, how the fire-control platform described a mighty arc through the air, and flung us into the shell-lashed waters. My last recollection of that holocaust is of seeing the *Arkansas*, flashing from stem to stern with the burst of high explosive shell as she swept by. Then a shell fragment grazed my head.

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The water, or I know not what, brought me to. Far in the distance the flash and smoke and roar of battle marked where the last American ship was being done to death, the dear old flag flaunting its "no surrender" message to the bitter end. And then, as the sad vision and all vision

began to fade away, I heard sharp words of command, and the swish of backing propellers, and something jerked me violently by the collar, and I was lying upon my back, and a familiar voice was saying: "Bless my soul, if it isn't Watson! What in the name of the unexpected and impossible are *you* doing here?"

And I had been fished out of the water by a boat hook and landed on the deck of the U.S. destroyer *Patterson*; and there was Commander Judson, whose guest I had been on this very boat, during a never-to-be-forgotten week of the summer manœuvres last year.

"I came down to witness director firing on the *Oklahoma* and—well—I saw it.— And you, what are you going to do?"

"Beat it for Hampton Roads, or any other point where I can get in to tell the good people of the United States, and their good representatives in the halls of Congress, to what a pretty mess they have brought their navy, as the result of interference, parsimony, and neglect!"

XVI

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

THE plan of campaign for the invasion of the United States, as formulated by the Great General Staff at Berlin, comprised three major operations :

I. To make a surprise attack upon the coast by a raiding force, and capture Washington and the principal seaboard cities, harbours, and naval bases.

II. To destroy the enemy fleet and obtain command of the sea.

III. By the instant seizure of all the arsenals, gun factories, and powder works, to prevent the development of the great potential strength of the United States in men capable of bearing arms.

So perfect was the preparation of Germany ; so complete the unpreparedness of the great country against which she launched her attack, that within a week of the declaration of war her fleet had sunk the enemy and was in undisputed command of the sea, and her army had captured the

National Capital and the two leading sea-ports of the country.

* * * *

At the very hour when the Mayor of New York received the ultimatum of Admiral Buchner, there dropped anchor in the Narrows the new 54,000-ton liner *Bismarck*. It was her maiden voyage (duly advertised), and she had on board 10,000 German troops with their full equipment. The next day she was joined by the *Imperator* and the *Vaterland*, and as soon as the signal "cease firing" had been made from the *Koenig*, the three great ships, carrying 30,000 troops, or as many as the total regular mobile army in the United States at that hour, steamed to the Hoboken and Chelsea docks and began the work of debarkation. Before night on April 2, the German forces in New York, including the garrisons at the forts, numbered 35,000 men.

To Boston came the *Cecilie*—the *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, and many another well-remembered liner, crowded with men and equipment. Night and day the soldiers of the Kaiser poured down the gangways of the ships, formed in column, marched from the docks to the armouries, and were billeted throughout the cities.

And now, the need for secrecy being

removed, transports steamed boldly up the Chesapeake, and Washington received its quota of the first reinforcements from Germany. Here, the guns, horses, transport wagons, etc., were placed on pontoons for transport from ship to landing beach.

* So excellent were the facilities for debarkation afforded by the possession of New York and Boston, that by April 5, including the raiding force, two army corps, or 80,000 troops, fully equipped and ready for service in the field, had been landed in America.

And thereafter during the next five days, the faster ships of the transports which sailed from Germany on April 1 began to arrive, warping into the piers at New York and Boston, which had been vacated by the earlier transports; so that by April 10 the German forces in the United States had been raised to 100,000 men.

Bold, indeed, was the strategy which dared to send this army to sea in unarmed transports, while the main fleet of the enemy was still "in being," or intact upon the high seas. Had not the great Mahan and many another authority before him laid it down, that before troops were embarked the enemy fleet must be either sunk or securely blockaded in, its own

ports? True; but, "Other times, other customs" The advent of the seagoing submarine and of the wireless had introduced factors which had upset the old formulas of war.

The possession by the enemy of a force of seagoing submarines enabled them, at one stroke, to clear the coasts of every hostile ship from Canada to the Panama Canal; and the capture of the radio plants and the possession by Germany of the U.S. Navy Secret Code made it possible to lure its main fleet into a position where it could be overwhelmed by superior numbers.

Finally, on April 11 there appeared off the American coast a great fleet of 45 transports, having on board 100,000 troops, and convoyed by the pre-Dreadnought ships of the *Deutschland* and *Wittlesbach* classes. It divided, the five *Deutschlands* convoying half of the force to New York and the five *Wittlesbachs* proceeding with the other half to the Delaware. The defences of the Delaware having been already taken from the land side, the fleet steamed up to Philadelphia.

By April 14, or just two weeks after the declaration of war, an army of 200,000 of the picked veterans of the recent European conflict had been landed on American

shores and was prepared to move into the interior for the subjugation of the country.

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And that was how it came about that the United States—the wealthiest and, potentially in its undeveloped wealth of men and natural resources, the most powerful country on earth—found itself, in the space of two eventful weeks, held fast in the “mailed fist” of a foreign foe.

Having, lo! these many years, “sown to the wind” the seeds of pacifist delusion, of political self-seeking, of amazing self-sufficiency, and of fatuous neglect, she was now to “reap the whirlwind” of disillusionment and humiliation in a profound national disaster!

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To describe in any detail the sequence of the operations by which the German Commander-in-Chief, within two weeks of the opening of hostilities had captured all the arsenals, and arms and powder works lying between the coast and the Alleghanies, would take a volume in itself. That must be the work of the future historian. It will suffice for the present purpose to sketch the mere outline of those tragic events which came to be known

thereafter as The Great American De-
bacle!

Immediately upon the capture of Boston, New York, and Washington, detachments were told off to seize the railway yards and terminals, and to commandeer such automobiles and motor trucks as were best adapted to army transport. This was done in each case on April 1, and early on the same day strong flying detachments, with numerous batteries of machine-guns, were rushed out by rail and by automobile to seize the bridges and tunnels on the main lines of the New Haven, the New York Central, and the Pennsylvania systems. Every few hours additional reinforcements were pushed forward to strengthen and hold these strategic points, until the several armies of occupation could be brought up from the coast by rail.

And on April 6, the railroads being securely held, the main advance began.

From Boston a force of 5000 men was thrown into Portsmouth, and three regiments, comprising about 10,000 men, moved down the coast, capturing the Fore River Shipbuilding plant at Quincy, Mass., where most of the United States submarines are built, and seizing the Torpedo Station at Newport, R.I., the submarine engine

And thus, by April 10, the major naval and military operations of the German plan of invasion had been completed. The United States main fleet was sunk, Washington and the principal seacoast cities were captured, and the arsenals and gun factories (with the exception of that at Rock Island) for arming and supplying any new armies which might be raised were in German hands.

Eight billions of the twenty billions which was the ultimate object of the invasion had been pledged. It now remained to secure from the Federal Government the twelve billion dollars, which had been demanded as the price of peace and the evacuation of United States territory.

* * * * *

Let it not be for one moment supposed that while its territory was thus being outraged and overrun, the United States was tamely submissive. The regular army, alas! except for the slender garrisons, was concentrated thousands of miles away on the Mexican border, but the moment the news of the invasion was flashed inland, orders were given for the mobilization of the militia and every emergency measure was taken to meet the invader.

But so quickly did he strike inland that it was at once evident that any concentra-

tion of troops in the East, in sufficient strength for effectual resistance, was impossible. Therefore, acting on the advice of his Chief of Staff, the President sent out an order for the retirement of all forces, regular and militia, behind the general line of the Alleghanies, and their concentration at Pittsburg, the temporary seat of Government.

And so, with smothered rage, the descendants of the men who fought at Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Yorktown saw the richest and most populous section of their country handed over for occupation by a foreign army; and the bitterness of that hour was not assuaged by the thought that this evacuation by the scattered American troops was the only alternative to their capture or absolute annihilation by the perfectly organized army of occupation, back of which, thanks to the absolute command of the sea, lay the millions of the Kaiser's army.

Bitter as gall, too, was the thought that, if the country had listened to the oft-repeated warnings of its military advisers, the enemy could never have landed on American soil, or, having done so, would have been met by a quick concentration in such superior strength as to drive him back to his ships.

XVII

THE CAPTURE OF PITTSBURG —AND PEACE

No answer having been received by the Commander-in-Chief of the German forces in America to the proposals forwarded to the United States Government at Pittsburg, orders were given in Berlin on April 3 for the immediate embarkation of a third army of 100,000 men for the seat of war. Also, instructions were forwarded to New York to move in full strength on Pittsburg.

Forthwith, an army of 150,000 men began to concentrate at Philadelphia—50,000 men being considered amply sufficient to hold the cities already captured. This confidence was based on the absolutely reliable data furnished to Berlin before the war by the German Intelligence Service as to the total effectives (90,000 regulars and militia) in the country, and on the information furnished from the same source as to the complete evacuation of the

Atlantic States by the United States military forces and their concentration at Pittsburg.

Before the movement of troops disclosed the plan of campaign, strong advance forces were thrown forward to hold the bridges on the line of the Pennsylvania Railway across the Alleghanies. The main force moved forward on April 16 by rail and motor car, on parallel roads, until it was halted at the great stone bridge of the Pennsylvania Railway across the Susquehanna, near Harrisburg, three arches of which had been blown up by the United States Army Engineers. The Germans ultimately crossed by temporary trestle bridging, and by a pontoon bridge, which they threw across the river. Sharp fighting occurred between the American rear guard and the advance screen of the German Army at every point up the Juniata Valley that offered strong positions for defence. On April 20 and 21, one of the most glorious feats of arms in American history was performed, when a united force of 10,000 regulars and 15,000 militia held the pass at the summit of the Alleghanies for two days, throwing back the van of the German advance, and being finally dislodged only when massed batteries of 400 guns caused them to retreat—the

whole force getting away down the Cone-maugh Valley with their artillery and wounded.

The American Army, consisting of 28,000 regulars and 42,000 effectives of the militia, with 30,000 partially trained and ill-equipped militia in reserve, had taken position for the defence of Pittsburg on the historic field of Braddock's defeat. The little army was strongly entrenched; but in field artillery it was sadly deficient, having only 180 field-guns, where it should have had 350. There was a similar shortage in machine-gun batteries.

Against the American was deployed an army which, in spite of the engagements in crossing the mountains, still numbered 135,000 men of all arms. It was completely equipped, and of the 7.7 centimetre field-gun it possessed over 850, besides several batteries of 8.2-inch field howitzers.

It is not within the scope of this narrative to attempt any description of the Battle of Braddock. Thanks to the skill with which the American position was chosen, the admirable advantage that was taken of the terrain in laying out the trenches and emplacing the batteries, and above all the matchless courage and endurance with which the American Army clung to

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its position—the onset of the German invasion was checked and its first rush broken and thrown back in confusion upon the main body. Only after two days of the bloodiest charge and countercharge, and when the whole mass of the German artillery had blasted the American trenches out of all semblance of earthworks, did the remnant of the American forces fall back on Pittsburg. After destroying all the bridges the army fell back to take up a strong defensive position along the west bank of the Ohio.

The seat of government was transferred to Cincinnati; and, within a few days, an emissary arrived from the German Commander-in-Chief, with the proposal that, on the condition of the payment by the Federal Government of twelve billion dollars and its abandonment of the "Monroe Doctrine," the German Army would be re-embarked, leaving sufficient forces to hold the principal custom-houses on the Atlantic and Gulf Coast until the indemnity was paid.

A council of war was called by the President for the purpose of discussing the military situation. Present were the Cabinet, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the President of the General Board of the Navy.

The President of the United States, whose poise, so far as any outward indications might show, seemed to have been in no wise disturbed by the stupendous calamity which had overtaken the country, said :

"The question as to whether it will be the part of wisdom to accept the conditions of the enemy, or carry on the war until he is crushed and driven back to the sea, is a naval and military one. There are two questions, indeed, to be answered : Is there any possibility of our defeating the enemy fleet and cutting off the German army from its base ; and failing that, what are the prospects of our raising an army or armies of sufficient strength to defeat the land forces of the enemy and drive him back to the sea."

"So far as the naval situation is concerned," said the President of the General Board, "the case is hopeless. It became so on the fatal day when every Dreadnought possessed by the American Navy was sunk in the Caribbean. For, although, in spite of the great odds against which we fought (10 ships against 22), eight of the enemy were sunk, they still have 14 ships of the Dreadnought class off our coast, besides 10 ships of the pre-Dreadnought class, to say nothing of strong divisions and

flotillas of cruisers, destroyers, and submarines. Our own pre-Dreadnought fleet is in the Pacific, and, because, of the preponderance of the enemy in the Atlantic, it must remain there. We cannot increase our naval strength; for all of our navy yards and shipbuilding plants on the Atlantic seaboard are in the hands of the enemy. Whatever the duration of the war, Mr. President, the command of the sea will remain with the Germans; and they will be free to bring over the whole German army, should they wish to do so."

He was followed by the Chief of Staff, who said:

"As to the military situation, Mr. President, the conditions are easily stated.

"The enemy is in undisputed possession of the richest, most valuable, and most densely populated section of the United States. He holds all that part of the country north of the Potomac lying between the Alleghanies and the Atlantic Coast. Being in command of the sea and possessing ample transport, he is free to land on our shores as many troops as he may desire. His army can live off the land. Having possession of the principal ports of the country, he can collect those revenues, which have formed the greater

half of the revenues of the Federal Government, and our Treasury will be depleted to just that extent. Therefore, if we carry on the war, the cost of the war, not merely to us but to the enemy, must be borne by the United States.

"The question of our ability to raise and equip an army sufficient in numbers, equipment, and training to enable us to drive the enemy back to the sea depends, primarily, upon the strength of the forces which he may bring over. So great is the prize for which Germany would contend that she would match crops with crops, army with army, and, supposing that no European complications arise, it is conceivable that we should find ourselves confronted by the full strength of the German Army; or, say, including the first and second reserves, by 4,000,000 men."

Here the Secretary of State interposed to say:

"The President has only to send out a call for volunteers, and out of our 100,000,000 citizens, 10,000,000 would spring to arms before the sun had set."

"True, Mr. Secretary," said the Chief of Staff, "but you must remember that securing the men is the simplest part of the problem. Moreover, you must not forget that the most populous portion of the

country is held by the enemy, and if he can prevent it—which he will—not a single volunteer will be available from the captured territory.

“The problem, however, is not to get the men, but the officers to lead them and the rifles, uniforms, ammunition, and above all the artillery, with which to equip them. Without these, your 10,000,000 men, Mr. Secretary, as I told you in Washington, would be merely a mob, 10,000,000 strong.

“Take the question of artillery alone. Without it, to send an army to battle with the superbly equipped German troops would be to send the brave fellows to certain slaughter. To equip an army of 4,000,000 men with field artillery alone would call for 20,000 3-inch guns; and the equipment with howitzers and machine-guns, to say nothing of rifles and ammunition of all kinds, would be on the same scale.

“Where are we going to obtain all this *matériel*? Practically all the arsenals, depots, gunshops, rifle factories, and powder works of the United States lie in that part of the country which is held by the enemy.

“So the question of how long it would take us to drive out the Germans is one not

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